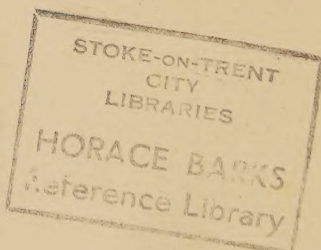




THE ANCIENT
CORPORATION OF
HANLEY,
1783 to 1900.

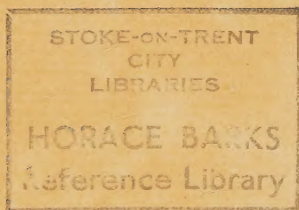
H.V. Thompson

March, 1923.



Staffs Dup
Spanton

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MARQUIS OF STAFFORD. K.G.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, P.R.A.



GRANVILLE LEVESON-GOWER.

First Marquis of Stafford, eldest son of John, Earl Gower, was born in 1721, created Marquis in 1788, died in 1803. Lord-Lieut. of Staffordshire, Lord Privy Seal, 1755-7; Master of the Horse, 1757; Keeper of the Great Wardrobe, 1760; Lord Chamberlain, 1763-5; President of the Council, 1768-79 and 1783-94.

(From a painting in the possession of Lord Burton.)

THE ANCIENT CORPORATION OF HANLEY.

A RECORD OF ITS PROCEEDINGS FROM
1783 to 1900.

Being a Revised Version of
"The History of the Ancient Corporation of Hanley,"
By J. S. Crapper.

Edited by W. D. SPANTON, F.R.C.S.,
RECORDER.



STOKE-ON-TRENT
CITY
LIHANLEY:3

ALLBUT AND DANIEL, LIMITED, PERCY STREET PRINTING WORKS.

MDCCCCI.



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PREFACE.

IN the year 1882, the late Mr. J. S. Crapper, then an Alderman of the Ancient Corporation of Hanley, compiled from the records an account which he published, and which now forms the basis of this work. His representatives have given full permission to use this material in any way I may deem best calculated to interest the members. So I decided to reproduce a large portion of the original, making such alterations as are necessitated by the progress of events, and adding some account of the records of the last eighteen years.*

I have also brought the epitome of the Municipal Corporation of Hanley up to the present date. Such records of the past, linked with those of the present, cannot fail to interest everyone concerned in the welfare of his neighbours: and although the conditions of life now are vastly different from those existing when the Ancient Corporation was first instituted, it may be perhaps, that a gathering once a year for good-fellowship and some kindly references to what is passing in the world around us now, is not less useful than it was a hundred-and-twenty years ago. Such pauses in the hurried hurly-burly of modern life as our Annual Venison Feasts afford are surely good, and lead to the interchange of thoughts on the past, and aspirations for the future, which are of permanent value.

The closing year of the nineteenth century seemed a fitting time to chronicle these events, and it is devoutly to be hoped that the work of the Ancient Corporation will be carried on *con amore* in the future as it has been for so long in the past.

* Some notes made by Councillor J. Ingamells for the late Councillor John Munro have been placed at my disposal by Councillor M. Munro, and have been of much assistance.

The origin of the Venison Feast is not very clear. About the year 1783, the Marquis of Stafford, then living at Trentham, took an active interest in the local affairs of the neighbouring towns, in most of which he possessed landed property. It seems most probable, that on one of the occasions when some of the prominent Hanley burgesses were invited to an entertainment at Trentham, the subject of a Feast was mooted, and this led to a promise of the first haunch of Venison by the Marquis for the occasion—a promise which afterwards became a custom, continued by the succeeding Dukes of Sutherland to this day. At first the Venison came from Trentham, when red deer were still indigenous; but when these disappeared it was sent from Dunrobin, in Sutherland, where some fine herds still remain. At Trentham, for many years only fallow deer have been preserved, and on some occasions, no doubt, these have been called upon to contribute to our Feast.

To illustrate the changes which have come over Trentham and Dunrobin since we were first indebted to them, a view of each as existing about 1780 and at the present day are given, representative in some degree of the greater changes which have taken place in our governing bodies during the like period. We give also other illustrations, intended to convey some idea of the local conditions long ago. Among them the old "Swan" Inn, the site of which is now occupied by the Hanley Market Terrace and Market Hall; the old Infirmary at Etruria, where the first Recorder of the Ancient Corporation, William Smallwood, was the first Surgeon. In seeking for portraits of the Ancient Councillors some difficulty has arisen, inasmuch as photography was then unknown, and only paintings are available. No representation of the original Yard Glass exists, but the new one, designed by Councillor A. F. Wenger, will be welcomed as a beautiful substitute.

To Lord Burton we are indebted for the copy of a painting of the first Marquis of Stafford, now in his possession; and to those friends who have so kindly helped to obtain the other illustrations I tender my thanks.

W. D. SPANTON.

THE Ancient Corporation of Hanley.

IN the Testa de Neville, a record of the time of Henry III., taken under the authority of a royal commission, mention is made of Hanley, which, consequently being upwards of six centuries old, may legitimately be termed "ancient," though it is more especially during the existence of the corporations to be noticed in the following pages that it has attained its importance as a town and a large centre of industry. Indeed, less than a century and a half ago Hanley presented a humble appearance, but in conjunction with Shelton it gradually sprang up and has long taken rank as the most important town in North Staffordshire. It is now a County Borough, whose commercial affairs, public institutions, and religious societies are used in common, without any distinction which ancient boundaries made. Shelton not having any distinct manorial character did not take the same position in historical records as Hanley at an early date, although it is mentioned as soon. One circumstance, however, may be mentioned to show that shrewdness and hospitality, so characteristic of the people of the borough of Hanley, were manifested at least as far back as four centuries. According to tradition, when Henry, Earl of Richmond (afterwards King Henry VII.), having landed at Milford Haven, advanced to encounter Richard III., before the

battle of Bosworth Field, while marching through Staffordshire, became straightened for provisions for his army, the miller of Shelton generously supplied him with the whole of his little stock, a favour which Henry when he mounted the throne did not overlook, but requited by making a gift to the miller of the fee simple of his mill and pool, and making him independent of the monopoly which the lessee of the King's mills at Newcastle claimed to the grist of the copyhold tenants of the manor.

At this time William Unwyn, of Chatterley, married the heiress of Stephen de Chatterley, whose second son settled at The Cloughs—William, the elder, was the head of the Chatterley branch.

In 1615 the Vill of Hanley was holden by William de Hanley, at the rent of six shillings annually payable at Newcastle, and after by Sir Thomas Colclough at a rent of twelve shillings a year.

The old Manor House then was on the site of the present Old Hall works.

From the Colclough family it passed to that of the Bagnall family, several of whom held office in the Newcastle Town Council. Charles Bagnall was mayor of the ancient corporation in 1787.

In 1755 there were no marriages and only 30 baptisms and 6 burials at St. John's Church, then the only place of worship in Hanley. There are now in Hanley 49 places of worship, including such abnormalities as "Labour Churches," etc. The population has increased from 7,000 in 1801 to 62,000 according to a recent census. Twenty years later, in 1775, there were 3 marriages, 110 baptisms, and 65 burials. Most likely in those days the Shelton births, marriages and deaths would be registered at Stoke. But the figures indicate that

Hanley was making great advance in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Many of her potters had become men of wealth, and the town had grown into considerable importance. But the men of Hanley felt humbled, because their town was looked upon as a child, a mere baby, by reason of its having no local government, institution, nor feast day—nothing that entitled it to the distinction it was seeking to claim, of being the head of the Pottery district. Burslem joined Tunstall in the celebration of their Court-leet, while Newcastle looked down upon all with a pride that only ancient dignity can give; and Stoke, Fenton and Lane End were quietly left out of the pale. But Hanley was made of different material to the latter; and could not submit to cold obscurity, but was determined to assume a virtue if it had it not. All corporations, and corporate honours, are but the work of men's hands, and why should not Hanley, if she had not a royal charter, right loyally make one for herself?

So Hanley made its own charter of corporation, and municipal honours became as clay in the hands of the potter. There were Ephraim Chatterley, John Yates, John Baddeley, and a host of other good men and true, not forgetting that eloquent veteran of the Church, the Rev. John Middleton, who resolved that Hanley should make its own charter, and have its own mayor, and all the civic honours attached thereto.

1783 to 1805.

It was in the year of grace 1783, and the month of September, when the inaugural feast was held. The Marquis of Stafford added to the dignity and good cheer by furnishing venison, which has been supplied from Trentham or Dunrobin

at each festival down to the present time, and the host was that good fellow, John Mare, of the Swan Inn. "A fine turtle for dinner," the records state. Ephraim Chatterley was the first mayor.

One good feature of the Corporation should be mentioned. There was nothing said about property qualification, and the secret of England's greatness—a good stomach—was the best passport to admittance. Entrance to the council chamber was won by the candidate drinking a yard of ale. We regret that the name of the noble inventor of the yard glass has not come down to us. How we should have delighted to honour our historic pages by the record of it.

At the second festival, held on the 30th of September, 1784, the following assembled at the Swan Inn :—

Mr. Ephraim Chatterley, Mayor	Rev. Benjamin Adams, Newcastle
„ William Smallwood, Recorder	Mr. Clowes, Longport
*Rev. Thomas Middleton (<i>sic</i>)	„ Ralph Bagnall, Leek
Mr. Thomas Adams, Newcastle	„ Joshua Heath, Hanley
„ John Heath, Hanley	„ Hugh Booth, Stoke
Rev. Mr. Tomlinson, Newcastle	„ John Hollins, Newcastle
Mr. Horwood, Trentham	„ Charles Cotton, Burslem
„ Thomas Twemlow, Shelton	„ William Brittain, Hanley
„ Thomas Hales, Cobridge	„ Joseph Adams, Newcastle
„ William Fowler, Newcastle	„ Daintry, Leek
„ John Yates, Shelton	„ Richard Heath, Newcastle
„ Ralph Baddeley, Shelton	„ John Emery, Newcastle
„ Samuel Hollins, Shelton	„ George Taylor, Hanley
„ John Baddeley, Shelton	„ Thomas Payne, Newcastle
„ John Mare, Hanley	„ — Payne, Hanley
„ John Beckett, Newcastle	„ Samuel Perry, Hanley
„ Robert Griffin, New Inn Mill	„ John Massey, Newcastle
Rev. Mr. Ferneyhough, Stoke	„ Wilson, Roebuck, Newcastle

* Evidently an error for John.



EPHRAIM CHATTERLEY.

Died about 1821.

First Mayor of the Ancient Corporation in 1783, also in 1810. Manufacturer in Hanley; lived at Shelton Hall.

Mr. Royle, Wall Grange	Mr. William Tittensor, Shelton
„ Anthony Hassall, Shelton	„ Frederick Lander, Shelton
„ Richard Mare, Hanley	„ John Yates, Shelton
„ Charles Bagnall, Hanley	„ Joseph Simpson, Shelton
„ Caldwell, Newcastle	„ Endsor, Newcastle
„ Charles Chatterley, Shelton	„ C. C. Whitehead, Hanley
„ Henry Baker, Hanley	„ Benjamin Goodwin, Cobridge
„ Bagshaw, Newcastle	„ Robinson, Cobridge
„ John Shorthose, Hanley	„ Adams, Cobridge
„ Valentine Close, Hanley	Rev. George Harper, Macclesfield
„ Francis Pearce, Teignmouth	Mr. Samuel Chatterley, Hanley
„ Dewind, Shelton	„ Thomas Wright, Shelton
„ Stephen Mayer, Hanley	„ John Glass, Hanley
„ Joseph Lakin, Hanley	„ John Whitehead, Hanley
„ Francis Keates, Hanley	„ James Keeling Perry, Hanley
„ William Melton, Hanley	„ John Mare, Swan Inn, Hanley
„ Richard Sims, Hanley	„ Luke Bennett, Dimsdale

At the same festival, Ralph Baddeley was appointed to succeed Ephraim Chatterley as mayor. On the following day Mr. Thomas Cartwright, Hanley; Mr. John Graham, Burslem; Mr. Peter Strepam, Hanley; and Mr. William Chatterley, Hanley, “Came on the corporation and paid 2s. 6d. each” as fines, no doubt, for their absence from the feast.

In 1785, John Mare became mayor. The first four years of our municipality were prosperous, and the council chamber was honoured by gentlemen from a distance seeking admittance. It is recorded that on the 11th October, 1796, in the 27th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George III., King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, etc., etc., Mr. Samuel Hollins was appointed to the honour of being mayor of Hanley and Shelton, in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, in the County of Stafford, and on the 27th of September, 1787 (being the Feast Day), he was succeeded in title and office by Mr. Charles Bagnall. The next ten

years, from 1787 to 1796, the following gentlemen filled the office of mayor: Charles Bagnall, Thomas Twemlow, Joshua Heath, John Yates, Edward Keeling, John Baddeley, James Whitehead, John Twemlow, Thomas Hollins, and William Yates. The portrait of alderman James Whitehead, kindly given by his grandson, Mr. James Thonger, is one copied from a coloured crayon drawing executed by a French refugee who was employed by him in his earthenware works at Shelton, about 100 years ago. At that time Mr. Whitehead raised a regiment of Volunteers called the "Hanley and Shelton Infantry," and as Lieut.-Colonel Whitehead, after six years' service he received a sword of honour and an address, at Ashbourne, on the 4th June, 1808, before the regiment was disbanded. He had three sons, Charles, George Smith and Henry James, who all spent the greater part of their lives in Mexico. James Whitehead was married to Ann Yates, at Bucknall, August 11th, 1796.

William Henry Smallwood, a surgeon of considerable repute in the neighbourhood and the first surgeon to the old North Staffordshire Infirmary, was the first recorder, and he held office for six years. He must have been a strange man, and quite an original in his way. Neither progress nor disaster, neither war abroad, nor disturbance at home seems to have influenced him. His comments on men and things were as concise as they were to the point, and as to their originality there could be no question. Had historians followed his example how much labour would have been saved! The bustle of life, the ambition of men, and the progress of arts, science, and literature, are all cut down by his analytical and laconic method of comment into "handsomely," "very handsomely," "with difficulty," "pretty well," "ditto," "capital," and "very capital," which important



JAMES WHITEHEAD.

Councillor, 1789; Mayor, 1793. (From a crayon drawing in the possession of Mr. James Thonger) formerly lived at Chatterley House.

remarks refer, of course, to the honours of the yard glass. It is pleasing to record that neither religious nor political feelings were allowed to mar good fellowship, for among the list of gentlemen who thus early entered the corporation is the name of the Rev. W. Pendegrass, priest of the Roman Catholic Chapel, Cobridge, and we find that politics have always been carefully excluded. And what is equally pleasing to an unprejudiced mind, is the fact that the reverend priest did not disgrace the monks of old in the discharge of his yard oath, for against his name our recorder has set down "very capital." The records state that "on the 22nd day of September, 1796, in the thirty-sixth year of our beloved and worthy Sovereign Lord George III., King of Great Britain and Corsica, etc., etc. (Thomas Hollins, Esq., being mayor), there were 32 to dinner, and a very good, friendly, humorous company 'twas." By a curious slip Mr. Middleton is entered in the records as the Rev. Thomas Middleton, but Thomas was at that time Incumbent of Endon, and son of the Rev. John Middleton, then Curate of Hanley. The latter had also another son, John, who had a dispute with his father, causing him to leave him only the proverbial "one shilling" by his will. The Incumbent of Hanley was at one time a partner of Mr. W. W. Edwards, of Shelton, as a potter. He was appointed Curate-in-Charge of Hanley in 1737, when 23 years of age, and died in 1802, aged 88, having held the living sixty-five years.

Two old customs are attributed to the Rev. John Middleton—one relating to drunken women, the other to the punishment of drunken men. If a constable found a woman intoxicated in any part of the town, he had the power to decide whether or not she should be ducked, and if he thought the case suitable, a chair which was kept in the St. John's Church,

was brought out, the culprit placed in it and ducked in a pool which then existed in Broad Street. The process usually had a sobering effect. A man found drunk in the streets would be taken into the church, where he was compelled to sit in his inebriated condition during the service, in view of the whole congregation.

On one occasion the Rev. John Middleton had some money entrusted to him by the then Marchioness of Stafford, to distribute, and in speaking about it he said he had a difficult task to dispense it, and added "I shall be obliged to divide the widows into bests, seconds and wasters, for I am not allowed to take them in the lump."*

Succeeding William Yates during the next nine years we have the following gentlemen as mayors: John Tomlinson, Edmund John Birch, Thomas Wright, Edmund John Birch, Thomas Byerley, Captain Simpson, John Adams, William Chatterley, and Stephen Chatterley. This brings us down to the year 1805. In the year 1798, the Rev. John Middleton attended the feast for the last time, and though in his 85th year, he was as full of good humour as ever. He sang his favourite song, and his concluding sentiment was, "that every man should sing or be fined," and all the company said "Amen." This feast must have been a very merry one, for in the same year, 1798, there is a note stating that the yard glass was broken. However, that honourable vessel was replaced by an elegant jasper cup, which was presented by William Adams, of Tunstall, and was of his own manufacture. But either from shame that so feeble an article should be substituted, or from an admiration of the article itself, it is soon afterwards recorded that the jasper cup was missing. Perhaps this want of decorum in the council chamber may be taken as

* Some further reference will be found concerning this remarkable man at page 43.



CHARLES WHITEHEAD.

Councillor, 1783.

a sign of decline, for in the year 1805, a very dismal period set in, although anterior to that date as small a number as thirteen sat down to the feast to do corporate honours.

It was in 1798 that E. Mayer succeeded William Smallwood as recorder, and each festival is described during his term of office as being "friendly," "social," "pleasant," "agreeable."

1805 to 1820.

From 1805 to 1810 the names of the mayors are omitted from the record. In 1810 we have the flickering struggle of a dying corporation: a little spirit was shown, a new yard glass was introduced, Ephraim Chatterley was a second time made mayor, and John Baker, recorder. After this some years are blank, and there was no feast till 1819.

These were sad times, not only for the Potteries but for England. War taxes, bad trade, and political excitement almost paralysed the land. In 1819, the feast being revived, Thomas Griffin was made mayor, and John Dent recorder.

The record made in reference to the "nine years' coolness" says: "The reason assigned for this sad forgetfulness and neglect of an ancient custom is extraordinary; that the great rogues of the State have so pinched the poor rogues of potters that, though they still love venison and Maderia, they still suffer their desires to be extinguished by the weight of taxes. They curse and pass on." A subsequent reference to the interregnum states in 1823, "We are happy to hail a renewal of a more auspicious era when those obstacles which are stated to have occasioned that lapse are in some degree removed, and we are enabled to gratify our propensities for conviviality, and thereby to revive something of the ancient hospitality of the country. An invitation was on this occasion

sent to the members for the county. Their answers were read expressive of great regret at their inability to attend."

In 1820, Mr. Askey assumed the chair, and then comes another blank year.

In 1820, we find the "Pottery Philosophical Society" holding its meetings in Hanley, when such subjects as—

"The history and advantages of philosophy;"

"Whether genius be the result of education;"

"The origin and progress of language;"

were discussed: and about this time some "Lectures on Chemical Philosophy" were delivered by J. Rudd, F.L.S., and amongst the experiments brought forward on this occasion was an exhibition of the principles of Sir Humphry Davy's Safety Lamp, "for the invention of which the masters of Durham and Northumberland collieries presented Sir Humphry with a service of plate, valued at two thousand pounds."

1821 to 1830.

The next ten years the corporation commenced a new life, and the following gentlemen were elected to the office of mayor: Thomas Griffin, Ralph Stevenson (the father of a subsequent recorder), Joseph Locker, John Denton Bagster, Thomas Cox, Benjamin Stubbs, William Malkin, John Leake, C. P. Hollinbery, and John Stonier. John Dent was appointed recorder in 1824; J. Amphlett in 1825; John Dent again in 1826; and Thomas Griffin in 1830. In the year 1826, "at the annual festival of this loyal Corporation of Hanley and Shelton, held according to annual custom at the Swan Inn, in Hanley, in the seventh year of the reign of King George IV., and in the year of our Lord Christ 1826, Thos. Cox, Esq., Chief Bailiff, duly appointed under the late



SWAN INN, HANLEY.

Act of Parliament passed, for the townships of Hanley and Shelton, in the chair. On this day, to precede the pleasures of the venison feast, Mr. Green, the celebrated aeronaut, accompanied by the Rev. Benjamin Vale, Curate of the Parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, ascended in a magnificent balloon from a field opposite to a house in Shelton, formerly occupied by Messrs. Twemlow, and now of Samuel Gray Simpson, Esq. At the writing of this present memorial, about eight o'clock at night, no intelligence had been received from the aeronauts and it belongs only to this brief memorial to read that they ascended about three o'clock p.m. in grand and magnificent style, and the congregated assemblage of thousands of persons who had come from all quarters to witness the ascent, and it was the only lot left to the present company, in respect to their ascension, to drink to the good health of the brave and courageous aeronauts and their most anxious wishes for their safe and immediate return." We have also the opening of the first cattle fair, which was well supported. To this circumstance in 1831, the members of the ancient corporation attributed so thin an attendance, but indulged in the hope that the next annual meeting would draw together in the cordial spirit of conviviality in which the festival was founded, a greater number of their neighbours, and thus promote a feeling of unanimity and goodwill towards each other.

William and his wife Mary Howitt lived at this time in Hanley, where he carried on the business of a chemist in Lamb Street, and to show some of the changes which have taken place in common drugs, we reproduce one of the labels then printed for W. Howitt by Thomas Allbut, about 75 years ago. Their literary lives were afterwards spent elsewhere.

HOWITT.

Crow Fig. Poison.

HANLEY.

M. MAYER, SWAN-INN, HANLEY.

	£.	s.	d.
Breakfast - - - - -			
Dinner - - - - -			
Supper - - - - -			
Eating - - - - -			
Coffee and Tea - - - - -			
Port - - - - -			
Madeira and Sherry - - - - -			
Negus and Punch - - - - -			
Rum and Brandy - - - - -			
Hollands - - - - -			
Ale and Porter - - - - -			
Cydér - - - - -			
Fruit - - - - -			
Paper - - - - -			
Tobacco - - - - -			
Chamber Fire - - - - -			
Bed - - - - -			
Chaise and Horses - - - - -			
Servant's Eating and Ale - - - - -			
Hay and Corn - - - - -			

£

ALLBUT, PRINTER, HANLEY.

Fac-simile of form of account.

The "Swan Inn" BILL we reproduce is interesting to compare with one of the present day.

1831 to 1841.

In the next lapse of ten years our record is brought down to 1841, and the following gentlemen passed the chair: T. A. Maguire, W. Bishop, John Taylor, George H. Fourdrinier, Ralph Stevenson, jun. (the subsequent recorder), Dudley Wood, Robert May, John Baker, E. N. Fourdrinier, and Samuel Keeling. In the present decade events have become thicker. The Swan Inn has been closed, and with it many happy associations of Hanley life. The Potteries has become enfranchised, and returns two members to Parliament. The corporation feast was now held at the Albion Inn. In 1832 it is recorded that "the Reform Act, the second great charter of English liberty, was passed into a law."

In 1833, being the 50th anniversary it was resolved to celebrate it as a Jubilee, and "a fine turtle" was provided. In this year Mr. William Bishop was mayor, whose portrait we are able to give.* George H. Fourdrinier was admitted a member in 1833, and all the gentlemen present acknowledged the urbanity, the colloquial talents, and the exquisite good humour of their new member. This was only two years before he was appointed mayor. In 1842 we find Mr. G. H. Fourdrinier (mayor in 1835), offering

* See page 30.

**A PREMIUM OF
ONE GUINEA**

WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE

BEST

TALE

OR

POEM

IN THE STAFFORDSHIRE DIALECT.

*Subject---A Wakes, Bull Fight, or any other
Local Amusement.*

Competitors are requested to forward their Contributions by the
1st September, to G. H. FOURDRINIER, Esq., or to Mr. S. TAYLOR,
Mechanics' Institution.

AUGUST 9TH, 1842.

(J. ALBUT & SON, PRINTERS)

Reduced fac-simile of handbill issued in 1842.

1841 to 1851.

Again, ten more years pass away, and younger men come to the front. From 1841 to 1851, the chair was filled by the following gentlemen: Thomas Smith, Dr. Thomas Head, Thomas Cunningham, Lawrence Whittaker, Thomas Keeling, George Baker, John Stupart, Theophilus Smith, Thomas Griffin, jun., and George Coxon. This decade was disturbed in its early part by the Pottery Riots, and the old "Swan" was converted into a barracks. A detachment of the 34th regiment was quartered there, and subsequently relieved by the 83rd. The soldiers remained in Hanley about eighteen months. The corporation during this period does not seem to have found a permanent resting-place, for the feast was celebrated alternately at the Saracen's Head and the King's Head. One notable fact is worth recording, namely, Major Brooks during this term was a member of the corporation. He was afterwards slain in the Sikh war. We have also to state that Thomas Griffin died in this term, after serving the corporation honourably and well for many years as recorder, and Ralph Stevenson was elected in his stead. In 1843, the festival was held on the 4th of October. On that day the nuptials of Lady Evelyn Gower with Lord Blantyre were solemnized, and the corporation embraced the opportunity of testifying their gratitude to the family of the Duke of Sutherland for their generosity, extending over a period of sixty years, in contributing to their festival, and expressed their congratulations on the interesting event of the day, and their sincere wish for the happiness of the newly-married couple.

1851 to 1861.

Passing to the next period of ten years, the corporate honours were discharged by the following mayors: William Yates, George Simpson, J. A. Wise, Joseph Clementson,

George Sargeant, C. M. Cox, Edwin Allbut, A. M. Dix, James Taylor, jun., and J. W. Clementson. This period was marked by the incorporation of the borough of Hanley. With respect to it we have the following note: "That this meeting views with considerable alarm the attempt of a portion of the inhabitants to incorporate the townships under the Municipal Act, which will have the effect of subverting the ancient rights and privileges of this corporation, which has so ably discharged its duties for nearly a century to the satisfaction of the townships:—Resolved, that the mayor, mayor-elect, and the recorder attend the meeting at the Town Hall, to protest against the attempt to establish a rival corporation."

We have also a very eminent achievement performed by the mayor and recorder, which is thus narrated: "It may be interesting to record that on Thursday, the 30th day of September, in the year of grace 1859, the mayor, in company with the recorder, made the perilous ascent of the Windmill mountain, known to geographers as the Windmill hill, situate 2° west longitude, 52° north latitude, with the view of making scientific observations on Donati's comet. They reached the summit about midnight, but found the atmosphere exceedingly dense, owing to the mists arising from the river Trent, a river flowing near the foot of the mountain, so that the luminosity of the comet was greatly obscured. Not having with them instruments of sufficient power to overcome the difficulty, they could only make a hasty calculation of the altitude and dimensions of the comet, the intense cold compelling a speedy descent, much to the regret of the Astronomer Royal and the disappointment of the scientific world. They were, however, able to observe that the comet had a tail—and thereon hangs a tale—also a luminous head, shadowing forth astrologically the intellectuality of the body corporate of this ancient guild;

they further observed that the comet had taken, and seemed determined to take, an exceedingly eccentric orbit, a sphere peculiarly its own, as always was and always will be the habit of mayors, aldermen and councillors, and civic dignitaries. They further discovered that the comet was an old one, though known to the corporation only of late, an old friend in a new coat, venerable by reason of antiquity, and yet retaining its pristine brilliancy, an exquisite illustration of the vigorous old age of this time-honoured guild. Finding themselves in a magic circle, they prognosticated the mayoralty for A.D. MDCCCLIX." These astrological allusions and predictions had reference to A. M. Dix, who became mayor in the ensuing year, 1859. The festival this year was thinly attended, and the paucity is attributed by the recorder to the fact, that on the same day there was an excursion to Holyhead to inspect the Great Eastern steamship, previous to her departure to America.

The years 1855-6-7, being a period of war, first with Russia, and followed by the Indian Mutiny, the feasts overflow with military toasts, and the discussions turn on "arms" and "deeds." Some local improvements are noticed, such as "a shop being let on the Market Terrace." "The first lot of good material shot down to repair the ruts in Broad street." And last, though not least, the binding of the Record book in a good calf skin. We have, too, the introduction of a Street Railway from Hanley to Burslem. Under date 1861, alderman Samuel Keeling was prevented by illness from attending the feast, but forwarded an interesting compilation from the Record book. One little instance we must not forget to record under date 1853, "That after much persuasion councillor Theo. Smith sang his favourite song of 'Jack Robinson,' which contributed much to the amusement of the evening"

1862 to 1871.

During the expiration of another decade we have the following mayors: Wm. H. Folker, Horton Yates, George Meakin, Thomas Adams, John Baker, R. E. Narramore, Charles Adams, Wm. Baker, Edmund Tennant, and John Burn.

During the reign of alderman Meakin, in 1864, the following record appears—

To
Councillor Alfieri.

Be it known to all men, that Councillor Burrey has been commissioned to deliver this to you, and to demand that you will at once and without fail forward to our Recorder a complete, true and fair Copy of the Song which you submitted to the Meeting of our Corporation of date the 19th day of October, 1864, being the 83rd year of our Reign:—This you will do by return of our Commissioner; failing which you are hereby commanded to appear before our said Recorder, to show cause why you should not be incarcerated for violating the Oath administered to you on being admitted into this Ancient and Honourable Corporation:—Under the Pains and Penalties as noted, to wit:

Pains—Incarceration for any period the Recorder and the Court of Aldermen may adjudge.

Penalties—Fine in the penal sum of Fifty Pounds Sterling, and Dismissed from this Honourable Body.

Given at our Court and
under this Seal this
18th Day of November, 1864.



Geo. Meakin, Ex-Mayor.
Thomas Cunningham, Alderman.
R. Stevenson, Recorder.



OLD NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE INFIRMARY.

Etruria Vale, opened April 22nd, 1819, transferred to Hartshill, December, 1869.
(From a sketch made by Miss Agnes Brown, in 1866, in the possession of Mr. R. Hordley.)

We are now brought down to 1871. The early events of this period principally relate to the Civil War in America, and the distress which prevailed throughout the country. But as a set-off to the disturbances of Republican America, the monarchical institutions of England were strengthened by a son born to the Prince of Wales. And as the strengthening process has been going on ever since, the said institutions must now have been augmented by a considerable addition of power. As a proof that there is a limit to the march of intellect, it is recorded that the burgesses of the "new" Corporation, by an overwhelming majority refused their sanction to a Free Library. On the other hand, amongst the things accomplished was the opening of the branch railway to Hanley, and a highly successful exhibition of works of art, by the industrial classes, was held in the Mechanics' Institution. The new North Staffordshire Infirmary at Hartshill was opened, to replace the old Infirmary at Etruria, which had become unsafe. An illustration is given, which conveys an accurate idea of the old building in its better days. Horton Yates, during his mayoralty, presented the corporation with a glass goblet, intended to represent the one used in days of yore. On one side it bore the arms of the corporation, and on the other the name of the donor, with date 1863. But a strange fatality has attended so far all the drinking cups of the corporation, and the goblet of Horton Yates was gathered to the ashes of the yard glass, in 1865, after a brief service of two years. The same year the members were called upon to mingle mourning with their feast, on receiving intelligence of the death of a distinguished statesman, Lord Palmerston, at the advanced age of 81. We have the beginning and the end of a rival gas company. The adoption of the Smoke Consumption Act by the master potters in the borough—alas! more honoured in

the breach than the observance. The Queen's Hotel was built, and the first corporation feast held therein in 1870. In the calamitous events we have the deaths of three honourable men, long to be remembered, aldermen Baker, G. H. Fourdrinier, and Edwin Allbut. Among the pleasanter associations we have recorded, that the year 1869 was specially marked by the best of dinners, and an unparalleled haunch.

1871 to 1881.

Since 1871, the following have filled the office of mayor: Charles J. Homer, Thomas W. Dodds, Charles Edward Challinor, William Stubbs, John Sugden Crapper, Samuel Keeling (second time), John Warner, Samuel Cole, Theophilus Smith (second time). The first event in this term was the presentation by Charles J. Homer of an elegant silver goblet to the corporation in 1871, in honour of his mayoralty. The goblet is of very chaste design. One side bears the seal of the corporation, and the other the New Bucknall Colliery Works. As a mark of Mr. Homer's kindness he was invited to a special dinner at the Queen's Hotel. In 1872 the ancient corporation felt bound to note that the Licensing Act, known as "Bruce's," came into operation, requiring all hotels and public houses to be closed at eleven o'clock, and, although the court of aldermen, held at the Saracen's Head, experienced some inconvenience in having to separate before completing the discussion of several weighty matters brought before them, the court adjourned, because they lay claim to be loyal people. The same year it is recorded that the price of coal was higher than it had ever been, house coal costing 20s. a ton, and the activity in the mine and potting trades was unprecedented.

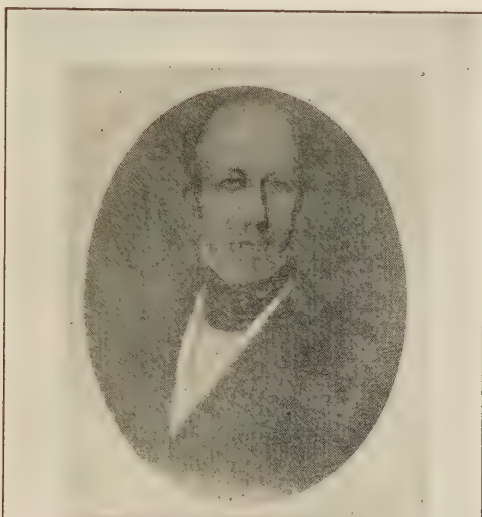
The price was maintained for several years, but had gradually to succumb to declining trade, and became lower than ever. During this term we have to note the opening of the branch line from Hanley to Kidsgrove; the building and opening and subsequent enlargement of the Baths, and many street improvements, notably those made in Piccadilly. The opening of the recreation ground is also recorded. In connection with the anniversary of the 26th of October, 1875, the following are among the records:—"There was a general expression of regret at the absence of the recorder (Ralph Stevenson), who was unable to attend by reason of the 39th anniversary of his wedding day falling on that day, which anniversary it is his custom to celebrate in the midst of his family. The high sense of duty and propriety which is characteristic of the recorder is doubtless mainly to be attributed to his long connection with this ancient guild." * *

"Without the approbation of this ancient guild and without adopting the safe course of first consulting it, the Parliamentary borough of Stoke-upon-Trent, in the early part of the year, signalized itself by electing as one of its representatives in Parliament, Edward Vaughan Kenealy, the leading counsel for the defence in the most notorious criminal trial of modern times." * * *

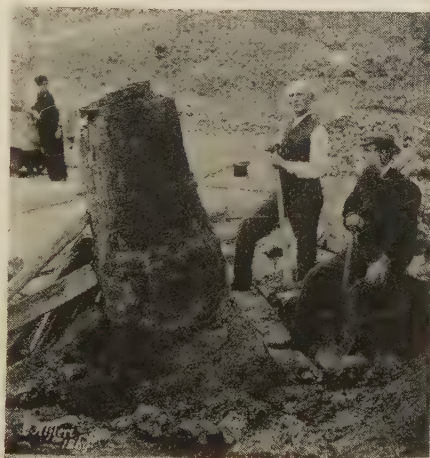
"The Lord Mayor of London, for the second time, extended his hospitality to the provinces, by again inviting the Mayors and Town Clerks of all the municipalities, and for the first time extended his hospitality to continental municipalities, by inviting some of their Mayors and Prefects, to a banquet at the Mansion House. It is recorded with much pain that his Lordship failed to avail himself of an opportunity of learning wisdom from this ancient guild, and omitted to extend his invitation to its mayor and recorder." * * *

"Turkey has repudiated her engagements." * * "Trade

depressed." * "Bank rate £2 per cent." * * The Judicature Act has been passed. It is said that the luxury of 'cheap law' is likely some day to be within the reach of all. Very little commiseration is felt for the lawyers." * "The Prince of Wales has gone to India to pay there a visit of ceremony and pleasure." * "Boyton and Webb swam the Channel, the former in his swimming dress, and the latter in nature's garb." And at the ensuing anniversary there were recorded the safe return of the Prince from India, the visit of Webb to Hanley, and a war, nominally a civil one, between Turkey and her provinces of Servia, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, but really a war between Turkey and Russia fighting under Servian colours, and which ended in the complete discomfiture of the Turks. The fraternal feeling and good-will of the members of this corporation are thus recorded : In the month of October, 1876, the wife of the retiring mayor presented him with twins, and it was resolved to mark the auspicious event in the customary way. At the festival in 1876 a silver cradle was presented to the mayor, and it bore under the seal of the corporation, the following inscription:—"Presented to John Sugden Crapper, J.P., Mayor of the Ancient Corporation of Hanley, in commemoration of a double addition to his family, during his year of office, 26th October, 1876. *Dum spiro, spero.*" A less joyous event was the announcement the same evening, that Ralph Stevenson, who had been connected with the corporation more than forty years, was unable to continue the arduous duties appertaining to his office as recorder. John Lovell Hamshaw, who had officiated as deputy in a manner worthy of every admiration, was unanimously appointed to succeed to the office of recorder, and his appointment, which was confirmed at the next anniversary, met with the entire approval of the corporation. It was in 1876 that Captain Webb visited



1. THOMAS GRIFFIN, SEN.
COUNCILLOR 1819, MAYOR 1819, RECORDER 1830 TO 1851.



2. RALPH STEVENSON
COUNCILLOR 1834, MAYOR 1836, RECORDER 1852 TO 1876.

(Taken in 1869 in Marl Pit, Joiners Square, showing a Sigillaria, 9 feet in circumference and 18 feet high, of which many were found; also Thomas Hampton, senr., the lessee).

RECORDERS.

Hanley, and a Skating Rink, which though one of the largest in the kingdom has not been successful, was opened at Hanley.

In 1878 the members assembled in large numbers, and they had to lament the deaths of three past mayors—aldermen James Taylor (mayor in 1868), Wm. Baker (mayor in 1869), and John Burn (mayor in 1871). Numerous events of interest were, however, discussed and are duly recorded, amongst them being the following: "The Paris Exhibition was a great success, as it deserved to be, and councillor Colin Minton Campbell (Mintons) obtained a grand prize, and councillor James Moore (Brown-Westhead & Co.) a gold medal, and, what is more, they merited their success." "Burslem, the mother of the Potteries," was, municipally speaking, born this year, and the granting of the Charter of Incorporation was celebrated by a banquet, given by the first Mayor, Thomas Hulme, of Dunwood Hall. The Hanley junior corporation celebrated this year by a banquet at Rudyard, their 21st anniversary. It is an interesting question for the learned and the curious "how the birth of the mother and the majority of the child can have happened in the same year."

In the following year there are details of the leading events of the world. The local matters which the corporation considered ought to find in these records a safe rescue from oblivion, are the concentration of the whole of the "wakes" of the pottery towns into one great holiday in the first week in August; the foundation of the Hanley Charity Organization Society, which the members heartily wished success; the removal of the Parker traction engine from the borough, and the appointment of nine additional justices of the peace who bear allegiance to the ancient corporation.

It has been stated that in 1872 trade in Hanley and the district was flourishing beyond precedent. The greatest activity prevailed in the pot works as well as in the iron works and in the mines. Unlike the members of this corporation, many of the earthenware manufacturers and men in their employ have disregarded an important principle which should guide the conduct of all men—that there is a relative duty towards each other. The consequence has been the records during the last few years have related to depressed trade, and immediately following the last anniversary there was a disastrous strike of earthenware operatives. These circumstances have arisen, notwithstanding that in 1878 it was placed on record, as the opinion of the ancient corporation, “that all unions and strikes should be abolished, except a union between masters and men to produce better manufactures and ‘lick all nations,’ and a universal strike against all trade shams.”

Alderman Theophilus Smith was, at the festival of 1879, elected mayor for the second time, and the fact that it was the fiftieth anniversary of his election as a member was considered as another triumph of the principles of the corporation. Unfortunately, owing to increasing years and indisposition, his worship was unable to attend the anniversary in 1880, when James Moore was appointed mayor. It is a subject of deep regret that he died during his term of office, and condolence with his family is duly recorded. A vote of sympathy with the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland consequent upon the loss they sustained by the untimely death of their daughter, Lady Florence Chaplin, was also adopted.

The festival of 1877 was distinguished by its being the 50th anniversary of the initiation of his worship the mayor, Samuel Keeling, into the corporation, and the unprecedentedly large number of gentlemen who celebrated it with him. This

was the second mayoralty of Alderman Keeling. The toast of the mayor's health was proposed by councillor Colin Minton Campbell, then one of the members of Parliament for North Staffordshire, and drunk with the greatest acclamation. Alderman Folker then alluded to the mayor's long connection with the corporation, and the great and mutual advantages which had resulted from it, and, in the name of the members, presented to the mayor an illuminated address, which was signed by all the members. The address states :— "It affords us the greatest pleasure to see you on this interesting occasion in possession of a sound constitution in mind and body, attributable without doubt to your long enjoyment of your glorious privileges. Your faithful and vigorous discharge of all the obligations of your oath has always commanded our admiration, and afforded to us, and all others, the subjects of our most gracious Sovereign, an example which should be diligently followed, and we earnestly hope that we may for many years to come have the benefit of your safe counsel and advice." Alderman Keeling was for the third time elected mayor of the ancient corporation at the 99th anniversary, his admirable social qualities peculiarly marking him out for the post of presiding over the hundredth festival. But this was not to be; and our mayor departed this life at Rocester, December the 3rd, 1881, a month after he had received the appointment. He had reached the advanced age of 78 years, the greater part of which had been spent in Hanley. He formerly took part in public business, as one of the old commissioners, and once held the office of Chief Bailiff of Hanley; but he never sought office on the Municipal Corporation. In 1859, when the Borough Commission of the Peace was granted, he was appointed one of the magistrates, and he was at the time of his death the Senior Borough Justice of the Peace. Hanley never lost a more worthy son, nor the ancient corporation a more esteemed chief, than Samuel Keeling.

PAST ALDERMEN

(See page opposite.)

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor, 1825—Mayor, 1833. |
| 2. | „ 1833 „ 1835. |
| 3. | „ 1826 „ 1841, 1877, 1882. |
| 4. | „ 1852 „ 1856. |
| 5. | „ 1863 „ 1864. |
| 6. | „ 1830 „ 1850. |
| 7. | „ 1887 „ 1898. |
| 8. | „ 1857 „ 1876. |
| 9. | „ 1849 „ 1858. |



4. GEORGE SARGEANT



2. G. H. FOURDRINIER



6. THOMAS GRIFFIN, JUN



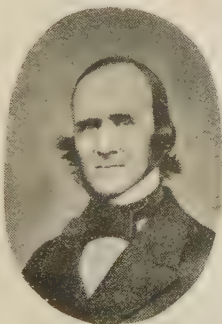
5. GEORGE MEAKIN



1. WILLIAM BISHOP



7. WILLIAM WOODALL



9. EDWIN ALLBUT



3. SAMUEL KEELING



8. JOHN S CRAPPER

LATE ALDERMEN.

STOKE-ON-TRENT
CITY

THE CENTENARY FESTIVAL.

The one hundredth venison feast of this corporation took place at the Queen's Hotel, on Thursday, the 2nd of November, 1882, when owing to the death of the mayor (alderman Samuel Keeling), the chair was taken by alderman William H. Folker, and the vice-chair was occupied by alderman Charles Adams. The banquet was an excellent one, and the viands included a haunch of venison, sent, as usual, by the Duke of Sutherland. On this occasion his Grace forwarded a remarkably fine haunch from a red deer at Dunrobin, weighing 38lbs. A letter was received on behalf of the Duke of Sutherland, regretting that he was unable to attend the centenary festival. The Members of Parliament for the county and the borough wrote to say that an expected important division in the House of Commons prevented them from leaving London. Numerous other letters were received from absent friends. Councillor John Lovell Hamshaw, recorder, and 25 other councillors were present, and the following gentlemen were admitted into the corporation: Messrs. Walter Acton, Michael H. Ashwell, Taylor Ashworth, G. M. Y. Brown-Westhead, Thomas M. Favell, V. H. Jackson, John Mills, Herbert Minton, Thomas C. Moore, Edwin A. Paine, Harold P. Robinson, Richard Walter Ship, Herbert W. Stanbury, Richard J. Strick and Richard C. Wade.

The preliminary toasts show that the corporation is a loyal one, whose members are God-fearing citizens, and respect the powers that be. They were: "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," "The Lord-Lieutenant and the Magistrates," and "The County and Borough Members." Then came the toast

in which the health of the Duke of Sutherland was drunk with much heartiness. Next followed the election and initiation of the fifteen new members. They were duly sworn in as councillors by the recorder, councillor J. West Jones acting as cup-bearer. The members present then, at the call of the chairman, rose, and, in solemn silence, drank to the memory of the late mayor. Feeling allusion was made by the chairman to the departed Mayor, to whose memory every respect was shown.

Councillor J. West Jones, the Borough Coroner, was unanimously elected mayor for the ensuing year.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the toast of his health, referred to many matters of interest connected with the corporation, and mentioned that two former members, the Rev. John Middleton and the Rev. R. E. Aitkens, held the living of St. John's, Hanley, for over a hundred years. He also referred to the circumstance that the senior surgeon of the North Staffordshire Infirmary was the first recorder, and that the senior surgeon one hundred years after was presiding at the Anniversary that day. The recorder subsequently furnished some interesting historical details, and the records contain an entry to the following effect :—During the past year Irish obstruction in the House of Commons and disaffection in Ireland have continued, although there are some signs of abatement of the latter. To cure the former the Ministry are engaged in an effort to introduce the *clôture* into the House, for which purpose an autumnal session is now being held. Reference is made to the Egyptian Campaign, the victory of Tel-el-Kebir, ending in the total collapse of the rebellion and the capture of Arabi Pasha, the chief of his party. Dr. E. B. Pusey, an eminent Churchman, died on the 16th of September, aged 82.

As at the beginning the members of the corporation showed that they were a loyal people, so at the end they manifested their law-abiding determination, and rather than commit a breach of the Licensing Act they omitted proposing three important toasts, including that of "The Absent Members," in order to quit the scene of festivity at the ordinary closing time—eleven o'clock.

1883.

The 101st anniversary of the ancient corporation, held at the Queen's Hotel, on the 18th October, 1883. Mr. James West Jones, mayor, presided; alderman W. H. Foiker being vice-chairman. The Hanley Quarter Sessions being held the same day, Mr. John Beavis Brindley, the Borough Recorder, was present after dinner, and was initiated as a member of the corporation, the oath being administered by Recorder Hamshaw. Eleven other new members were also initiated, including Mr. Arthur Birks, chairman of the Fenton Board. Besides Mr. Brindley and Mr. Birks, the following were initiated as new members:—Wm. Elliot, of Omagh; H. C. Faram and Geo. Mellor, Stoke; John Benson, Hy. Cook, W. J. J. W. Heath, Saml. Hodgkins, A. B. Jones, J. Justin Macarthy and Jas. Wm. Moss. It was announced that since the last anniversary alderman Theophilus Smith and councillor Richard C. Wade (the latter of whom was initiated at the centenary Festival) had died. Lieutenant-Colonel John Strick, who was initiated in 1864, but was unavoidably absent from this festival, was elected to fill the office of mayor during the ensuing year.

ALDERMEN, A.D. 1900.

(See page opposite.)

1.	Councillor,	1854—	Mayor,	1868.
2.	„	1860	„	1862.
3.	„	1864	„	1884.
4.	„	1865	„	1867.
5.	„	1867	„	1890.
6.	„	1869	„	1870.
7.	„	1869	„	1892.



2. W. H. FOLKER, F.R.C.S



6. EDMUND TENNANT



4. R. E. NARRAMORE, J.P



1. CHARLES ADAMS, J.P



7. THOMAS BICKLEY, J.P.



5. CHARLES DANIEL



3. COL. JOHN STRICK, C.B

ALDERMEN, A.D. 1900.

STOKES-ON-TRENT
CITY

1884.

The 102nd anniversary, held at the Angel Hotel, kept by Mr. James Warrillow, on the 14th October, 1884 (the Queen's Hotel having since the previous anniversary been converted into Corporation buildings). Colonel Strick, the mayor, presided; and alderman James West Jones, ex-mayor, was in the vice-chair. There were about 20 present. After the loyal and other toasts, the ex-mayor proposed "The Duke of Sutherland and thanks for his venison." It was stated by the ex-mayor as a fact, that while the Duke annually sent the Ancient Corporation venison, all his Grace had sent to the Municipal Corporation was an injunction. This acknowledged superiority of the ancient corporation in the judgment of the Duke was warmly applauded, and the toast was cordially drunk. Recorder Hamshaw then initiated as members the Rev. Geo. Armitage, of Silverdale (vicar), and Mr. Thomas Bullock, Newcastle, official receiver under the Bankruptcy Act, which came into operation on the 1st of January, 1884. The ex-mayor, assisted by Mr. Samuel Cole (alderman), acted as cup-bearer. The mayor proposed as successor in office councillor Henry Palmer, who was unavoidably absent. This was seconded by alderman Folker and carried with applause. Councillor J. B. Brindley (who presides as Recorder of Hanley Borough Quarter Sessions), proposed the health of the mayor, which was drunk with musical honours. It was announced that councillors W. T. Walley and Oliver Lodge had died during the year.

On the occasion of the mayoralty of Colonel Strick there appeared on the programme the following extract from the *Utopia*:—

"Ye elders take occasion of honest communication, but

neither sadde nor unpleasant. Howbeit they do not spende all the whole supper time to themselves with longe and tedious talke. . . . No supper is passed without musicke. They leave nothing undone that maketh for the cheeringe of the companie. For they be muche enclined to this opinion—to thinke no kinde of pleasure forbydden whereof commeth no harme."

1885.

The 103rd anniversary, celebrated by the usual venison feast, October 20th. Not a large attendance. Banquet provided by Mr. J. Warrillow, including a fine haunch, gift of the Duke of Sutherland. Proceedings of a thoroughly enjoyable description. Mr. Henry Palmer, the mayor, presided; alderman John Strick, ex-mayor, vice-chairman. Appropriate speeches by a number of members. Health of the Duke drunk. Then Mr. J. L. Potts, London, and Mr. O. H. Schou, of Hanley, were elected members, and were initiated with due solemnity, councillor Richard Strick acting as cup-bearer. The vice-chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "The health of the mayor," observing that the records of the ancient corporation contained the names of the father and the grandfather of Mr. Palmer, his grandfather having been initiated in 1789. The present mayor maintained the credit of the family, and it would be a fitting acknowledgment of his abilities and his services to the town that he should be called upon to act as chief magistrate of the borough.* (Musical honours.) Alderman Charles Adams eulogized Mr. J. L. Hamshaw, the recorder, for his devotion to the

* Mr. Henry Palmer was elected Mayor and Chief Magistrate of the Borough, November, 1887; re-elected, 1888.

interests of the ancient corporation, and proposed that he should be mayor for the ensuing year. The vice-chairman seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The company then drunk very cordially the health of the mayor-elect, who responded in a humorous speech.

1886.

The 104th anniversary, celebrated with the usual venison feast, Saracen's Head Hotel, Thursday evening, 18th October. J. L. Hamshaw, mayor, presided; vice-chairman, councillor Thomas Taylor. About 30 present, including several aldermen. Rev. E. D. Boothman officiated as chaplain. Rev. S. H. Owen, whose name was coupled with the toast of "Bishop and clergy of the diocese," endorsed the opinion sometimes expressed by the late Prebendary Edwards, in favour of "thousand-a-year bishops," which he thought would be the means of lessening many of the difficulties in relation to church matters. Alderman Folker proposed councillor Thomas Taylor be mayor for the ensuing year. Seconded by alderman Charles Adams; supported by aldermen Crapper, Warner, Strick, and the retiring mayor. Election unanimous. The following were then elected members:—Rev. J. B. Phillips; Messrs. W. D. Spanton, J. H. Collings, Samuel Hyslop, Wm. Tunncliffe, F. M. Julian, J. T. Howson and F. T. Souden. Alderman James West Jones acted as deputy-recorder; councillor J. R. Strick as cup-bearer. Health of newly-initiated members drunk most cordially. Alderman Folker proposed "Health of the mayor," spoke of the zeal and ability with which alderman Hamshaw had officiated as recorder, and of the value of the records which he had kept.

The mayor dwelt on the value of the ancient corporation as an institution which cemented good feeling amongst all those who joined it, and pointed out the valuable character of the volume, containing the records of over 100 years, embracing references to not only local but to imperial events of great importance and interest. He then gave an account of the chief occurrences in the world the past year, claiming for the members of the Ancient Corporation that they had exercised a healthy influence not only over local but national affairs.

1887.

The 105th anniversary, Saracen's Head Hotel, October 27th, councillor Thomas Taylor, mayor, presided. Moderate attendance, including Mr. W. Woodall, M.P. for the borough of Hanley, the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Hanley (councillor John Bromley), and the Mayor of Stoke (councillor Geo. Leason). The Duke of Sutherland was thanked for his venison, as usual, and his health was cordially drunk. The following new members were initiated, alderman J. West Jones being cup-bearer, assisted by councillor R. Strick: Mr. Woodall M.P., Rev. F. E. Waters, Messrs. E. J. D. Bodley, J. Bentley, D. Lacey, C. E. J. O'Neill and W. Pennack, whose health was proposed by alderman J. S. Crapper. Alderman Hamshaw, the recorder, in the course of his *résumé* on matters of interest which had occurred during the year, said two events had occurred that would have to be recorded: one was the unanimity and great loyalty with which the jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen was celebrated; and the other, an important fact in connection with the Junior Corporation, namely: it had been discovered that "all that glitters is not

gold," and future chief magistrates of Hanley would wear a real gold chain. [The Mayoral chain which had done duty since the days of Mr. Ricardo has been put on one side, and a handsome gold one has been presented by Mr. Herbert Keeling.] Councillor Bromley (Mayor of the Municipal Corporation), was unanimously elected mayor of the ancient corporation for the ensuing year.

1888.

The 106th feast, held at the Town Hall, October 31st, when a fine haunch of venison, sent by the Duke of Sutherland, from Dunrobin, was amongst the good things provided. The caterer was Mr. J. Munro, and 25 attended. Councillor John Bromley, the mayor, was in the chair. Councillor Spanton proposed the health of the Duke of Sutherland in very eulogistic terms, mentioning amongst other facts that he was a model landlord. His Grace carried out the "three-acres-and-a-cow" principle to a great extent, by letting his land in lots of ten or twenty to thirty or forty acres, as opportunity arose, and there were already over forty of these small farms on the Duke's estate in North Staffordshire. The new members initiated were Messrs. David Jones, W. S. Simpson, R. W. Day and J. H. Harrison. Councillor T. Bullock, assisted by councillor J. T. Howson, officiated as cup-bearer. Councillor the Rev. E. D. Boothman was unanimously chosen to be mayor for the ensuing year, and his health was drunk with enthusiasm. The mayor-elect said he believed that was the first time a clergyman had been appointed to preside over the ancient corporation, and he felt glad as a clergyman

that he was so honoured. He valued the association he had held with the corporation because it brought him into cheerful society, and cheerfulness he regarded as a christian virtue.

1889.

The 107th venison feast, held at the Town Hall, November 6th. Venison sent by the Duke of Sutherland, from Dunrobin. Caterer, John Munro. Nineteen attended. The mayor (the Rev. E. D. Boothman) presided, being supported by councillor W. Woodall, M.P. for the borough of Hanley, councillor J. L. Hamshaw (recorder of the ancient corporation), councillor J. B. Brindley (Recorder of Hanley), and Mr. J. Wilcox Edge, Mayor-Elect of Burslem. The gentlemen initiated as new members were Rev. R. B. Tonge and Messrs. J. Wilcox Edge, A. Goodwin, J. W. Moore and J. T. Fenton. Alderman Crapper proposed the health of the new members. Alderman John Bromley acted as vice-chairman, and councillor G. Clarke, assisted by councillor J. T. Howson, officiated as cup-bearer. Councillor Woodall, in proposing the health of the mayor, quoted alderman Crapper's "History of the Ancient Corporation" as to past practices, observing that at the present festival the members had been presided over by one in holy orders. That was a new departure, and he suggested that they might make another new departure by recognizing the services of gentlemen connected with the newspaper press, and also those who had distinguished themselves in musical matters, as a means of perpetuating an association which was well worthy of preservation, promoting as it did fraternal feeling and goodfellowship. The mayor, in responding, said that though it was the 107th

anniversary of the Ancient Corporation he was the first clerical mayor, and he felt justified as a clergyman in holding the position because he felt that everyone should recognise the social conditions of life. They sat there as christians engaged in the act of goodfellowship. He should rejoice if by any new departure they could give a literary and artistic turn to the gatherings of the corporation, which was a subject for the consideration of the court of aldermen. Councillor Chas. Daniel was unanimously elected mayor for the ensuing year. The recorder, replying to the toast of his health, enumerated the events which he said it would be his duty to enter on the records of the corporation, as having occurred during the past year. The marriage of a Greek Prince to a German Princess led him to discourse on the Spartan custom of dining and promoting everything which tended to make people happy. The deaths of John Bright and Father Damien, and the establishment of county councils, the Parnell Commission, the news from H. M. Stanley, the dock labourers' strike and the visit of the Shah, as well as local topics, including the benefit Hanley Church derived from the Stoke Rectory Act, and the sad catastrophe at a Longton colliery, were commented upon, and would, he said, have to be recorded. Besides those whose names occur in the foregoing account, there were present alderman Chas. Adams, councillors J. Clare, J. Collings, J. Ingamells and R. W. Ship.

1890.

15th November, 108th anniversary. Usual venison feast at Town Hall. Attended by about 40. Venison given by Duke of Sutherland; sent from Dunrobin. Councillor Charles Daniel, mayor, supported amongst others by alderman

the Rev. E. D. Boothman, ex-mayor; councillors Rev. H. S. Owen, W. Woodall, M.P., aldermen J. S. Crapper, W. H. Folker, C. Adams, W. Stubbs, J. L. Hamshaw (recorder), &c. New members initiated: Messrs. A. D. Astbury, J. Aynsley, A. Baines, A. C. Bourner, E. J. Daniel, P. H. Daniel, J. E. Homer, F. H. Lodge, J. Lowe, A. Nevins, A. E. Ramsdale, and W. R. Tooth. Alderman Adams moved, the recorder seconded, alderman Boothman supported, that councillor Rev. S. H. Owen be mayor for ensuing year: carried unanimously. It was considered satisfactory to have a mayor of councillor Owen's profession, who regarded it as a portion of his duty to fill the part of a fellow citizen and to share in their reasonable enjoyments. The recorder gave the customary *résumé* of the events of the year, which included references to the heroism and adventure of Stanley in Africa and the Anglo-German Treaty, the Parnell Commission, the fall of Bismarck, the deaths of Jefferson Davis, the Bishop of Durham, Canon Liddon, Dr. Dollinger, Dr. Littledale, and Cardinal Newman, the McKinley tariff, and the North Staffordshire Technical Museum.

1891.

The 109th anniversary, 4th November, at Town Hall. Munro, caterer. Attendance not large. Alderman C. Daniel, ex-mayor, in the chair. Venison from Dunrobin, given by Duke of Sutherland. The Rev. H. S. Owen, mayor, had died during the year. Feeling allusion was made to his good qualities, and

the company drank to his memory in silence. Messrs. C. H. Phillips, J. O. Sargeant, and Henry Fennell were initiated new members. Councillor Thomas Bickley elected mayor for the ensuing year. The president of the evening, responding to the toast of his health, said in 1784 five clergymen were elected members, one of whom, the Rev. John Middleton, attended the feast in 1789, and the record stated that though "in his 85th year he sang a song, the concluding sentiment was every man should sing or be fined, and all the company said 'Amen.'" The recorder, in responding to the toast of his health, said he should not sully the pages of the book belonging to the ancient corporation with the details of the blot in the domestic life of Mr. Parnell, which caused a split in his party, and had its denouement in the horsewhipping of one of the members of the party. It would, however, be incumbent on him to mention that when a member of the ancient corporation, or any other gentleman, travelled by train he had better not carry with him countless counters, and that if he went anywhere to advise any one to back a horse or "baccarat" he would do a very foolish thing. He set forth the advantages of the Stoke Rectory Act, which would have to be recorded; and after speaking of the late mayor as a great benefactor to the poor as well as to the church, he said the deaths which would have to be recorded as well as that of the Rev. S. H. Owen, included councillor the Reverend Thomas de Vine, who was respected by everybody. Another man of a different stamp, conscientious though, who was always "going, going," had gone at last, Charles Butters. There had also died one of Hanley's most successful manufacturers, George Meakin, and alderman J. S. Crapper, the historian of the ancient corporation, a man who had many estimable points, and was an old and faithful member of the corporation.

1892.

The 110th annual festival took place at the Town Hall, November 3rd, when about 30 attended. Thomas Bickley, the mayor, presided, and alderman Charles Daniel occupied the vice-chair. Mr. J. L. Hamshaw officiated as recorder. Mr. Munro was again the caterer. The venison was from Dunrobin, and was as usual the gift of the Duke of Sutherland. Councillor W. D. Spanton submitted the toast of "the Duke of Sutherland and thanks for his venison." This was the first time the present Duke had sent the venison for the feast of the ancient corporation, but it was hoped his Grace would continue to keep up a custom which had so long prevailed. Reference was made to the great interest which the Duke and Duchess had taken in North Staffordshire Institutions, notably the Musical Festival. The toast was very heartily received. The following were elected councillors : Messrs. A. H. Austerberry, W. J. Carr, E. V. Greatbach, W. Y. Colclough, B. Horth, B. H. Horth, C. W. Newgill, J. B. Mackie, S. Pointon, H. M. Robinson, and J. Young. All except Mr. Colclough (who had to leave) were initiated, councillor A. E. Ramsdale officiating as cup-bearer. The health of the newly-initiated councillors was proposed by alderman Charles Daniel and heartily received. On the motion of alderman Charles Adams, seconded by councillor Spanton, councillor Wm. Tunnicliff was elected mayor for the ensuing year. It was mentioned that all the good qualities which they were accustomed to look upon as typical of Englishmen were concentrated in councillor Tunnicliff, and the remark was endorsed by the plaudits of the company. The health of the retiring mayor having been drank with enthusiasm, alderman Bickley, in responding, said the ancient corporation possessed advantages which did not pertain to the

younger municipal body, inasmuch as it levied no taxes, collected no rates, and membership did not involve the necessity of attending ward meetings and answering questions which were sometimes awkward, occasionally offensive, and often unpleasant. He rejoiced at the movement for obtaining public parks, but he thought it would be expedient to make a good job of one, leaving the other land open spaces until trade was better. He was glad the authorities of the town had secured the right to light the town by electricity, which he was sure would be the light of the future. During the evening Mr. Hamshaw, the recorder, gave an outline of the events which he undertook to enter in the book of the corporation.

1893.

The 111th annual venison feast took place at the Town Hall. J. Munro, caterer. About 50 present. Duke of Sutherland sent venison. Alderman W. Tunnicliff, mayor, presided, supported by recorder Hamshaw, the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation (E. J. Hammersley), and aldermen and councillors of the ancient corporation, vice-chairmen, alderman C. Daniel and councillor E. V. Greatbach. After loyal and a few other toasts, the recorder initiated the following new members (councillor J. T. Howson, assisted by councillor D. Jones, being cupbearer): J. B. Ashwell, C. E. Bullock, C. F. Baker, H. Boddington, W. W. Dobson, Charles Elphinstone, Alfred Ellis, W. Forshaw, William Hampton, Henry Irvin, Samuel Johnson, M.D., Edmund Jones, William Jackson, E. A. S. Knight, Frederick Mountford, John Munro, Murdo Munro, A. B. D. Sword, G. W. Tunnicliff, F. C. Wardle, W. W. Wardle. Moved by alderman C. Adams, seconded by alderman W. H. Folker,

councillor George Leason unanimously elected mayor for ensuing year. Councillor E. J. Hammersley elicited warm expressions of approval when, in proposing the health of the Duke of Sutherland, with thanks for his venison, he extolled the virtues of his Grace and the Duchess, and spoke of the good they were doing by taking an interest in the local institutions of North Staffordshire. After other toasts came the health of the recorder; drank with musical honours. In reply he gave an interesting account of occurrences of the past, including the Home Rule Bill, the Royal Wedding, and other subjects; noticed death of C. J. Homer, alderman, who was mayor in 1872—he gave the silver cup used in initiating new members; also the death of councillor John Robinson, than whom no one was more respected. He also alluded to the death of Mr. Robert Heath, as a loss to the district.

1894.

November 7th, 112th anniversary. Venison, as usual, from the Duke of Sutherland. George Leason, mayor, presided. Amongst those present were Mr. E. J. Hammersley, Mayor of the Municipal Borough, Mr. J. L. Johnson, Mayor of Longton, and the Rector of Hanley the Rev. W. S. Knowles, alderman W. Tunnicliff, and councillor J. Clare, vice-chairman. Councillor John Clare was unanimously elected mayor. A tribute of respect and gratitude was paid to the Duke of Sutherland after dinner. New members initiated: G. G. Leason, W. T. Leason, C. S. Jones, J. Neale, J. L. Johnson, L. H. Jahn, J. C. Butters, H. Sykes, H. L. Alderton, R. E. Greatbach, A. T. Brown, W. Y. Colclough, and the Rev. W. S. Knowles. Rev. E. D. Boothman gave the toast of the

recorder. The recorder, in responding, said he had eaten his 21st dinner at successive anniversaries of the ancient corporation. He gave an interesting account of various events which had occurred during the year, mentioning in connection with local matters the opening of the first section of the Public Park, and the adoption of Electric Lighting by the junior corporation, the ancient corporation having prophesied its adoption as far back as 1877. Recently, he said, the authorities at Stafford had prepared a statement as to the number of criminals between the ages of 9 and 15 sent to Stafford Gaol, and from that statement it appeared that Hanley and Walsall had sent the highest number of such criminals. The Justices of the Borough were exceedingly careful not to send children of tender years to gaol, but it sometimes happened that parents wilfully abandoned their children, in order that they might get into the hands of the police and be sent away to an Industrial School. In a few of such cases it was found necessary to send children to gaol, although the Justices were careful not to put a premium on parental neglect. Other toasts were given, and the evening was spent in a convivial manner.

1895.

November 18th, 113th anniversary. Councillor John Clare, mayor, in the chair; alderman George Leason, vice-chairman. About 40 attended, including councillor W. Woodall, M.P., and Mr. Moses Tunnicliffe, recently elected Mayor of the Municipal Corporation. Councillor Woodall, M.P., responded to the toast of the borough and county members, which had been proposed by Captain A. B. Jones, who said he was sure they all sunk their political opinions in their desire to

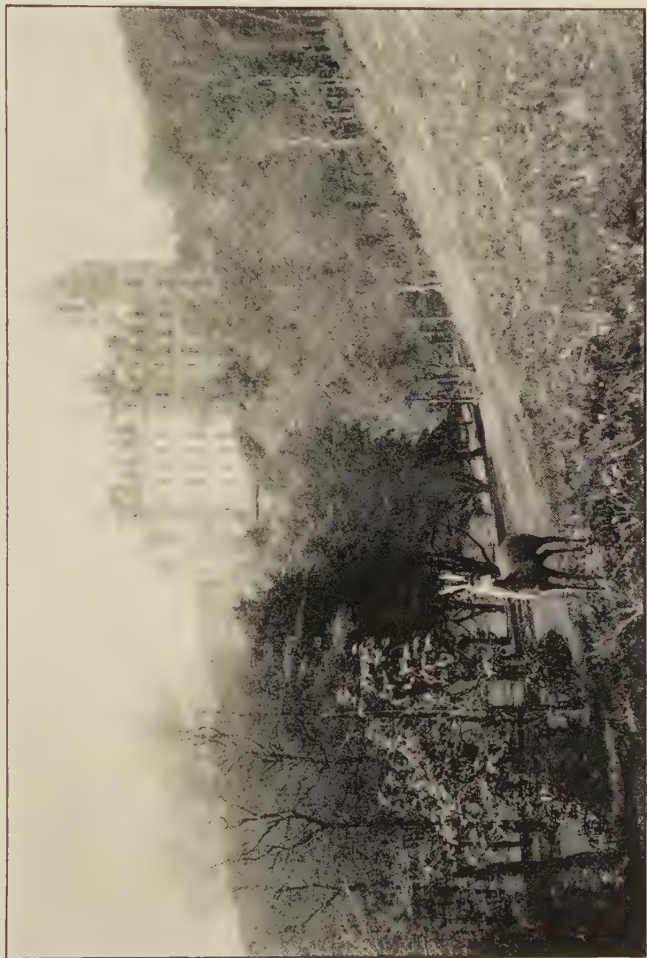
encourage any government that happened to be in office to keep Old England and the Empire to the front. Councillor Woodall considered that the gathering derived its interest from the recognition of the fact that over a long period good citizens had met round the social table to recognise their personal, social, and political responsibilities, and he trusted that they would not recognise any difficulties presented by differences of party or of a political character. The hon. member then made some happy remarks as to the growth of local institutions since the ancient corporation was established. During the evening the following new members were initiated by recorder Hamshaw, councillors A. S. Ramsdale and A. Goodwin being cup-bearers: Moses Tunnicliff, T. A. Speakman, Louis A. Taylor, A. B. D. Sword, Junior. The recorder's speech, in response to the toast of his health, made reference to the Parliamentary election, which took place the previous June, the position of the Government with regard to China, Japan and Turkey, the change of speakership in the House of Commons, and various local matters, such as the Tramway, and the use of electricity, and the death of councillor Wm. Taylor, a member of the corporation when Joseph Clementson was mayor.

1896.

The 114th venison feast was held on Tuesday, November 3rd, and the proceedings passed off with the geniality which has always characterised these gatherings. "Ye haunche of bucke from ye forest at Dunrobin of ye gude Duke of Sutherland" was a conspicuous feature. The chair was taken by the mayor, councillor J. T. Howson, and there were also present amongst others: aldermen W. H. Folker, C. Adams,



DUNROBIN CASTLE, SUTHERLAND, IN 1783



DUNROBIN CASTLE, SUTHERLAND.

The seat of the former Earls and present Duke of Sutherland, in 1900.

E. D. Boothman, T. Bickley, T. Taylor, C. Daniel, W. Tunnicliff, and J. Clare ; councillor W. D. Spanton, mayor-elect, alderman J. L. Hamshaw, recorder ; councillors W. Woodall, M.P., F. Mountford, J. Munro, J. Ingamells, Messrs. W. Stanley, H. L. Thompson and J. H. Walmsley.

After numerous letters of apology for non-attendance had been announced by the recorder, the mayor gave the loyal toasts which were received with enthusiasm.

Alderman Taylor gave "The Clergy." It was he believed the intention of all denominations to do as much good as they possibly could, and he hoped that whenever the bishop and clergy were toasted it would be understood that the clergy of all denominations were included.

The toast was coupled with the name of alderman E. D. Boothman, who, in the course of his reply, referred to the glorious life of the Primate of all England, who had recently passed away, and the speaker expressed the opinion that the more the clergy felt they were the brothers of men, and the more they impressed this upon those with whom they were brought into contact, the more certain it was that in every assembly of Englishmen this toast would be honoured as it had been that evening.

Councillor W. D. Spanton, in submitting "The Duke of Sutherland, and thanks for his venison," said that he had little doubt that the toast had been proposed each year during which the ancient corporation had been in existence. A strong feeling was manifested some time ago that the mere fact of having forests for deer to run wild in, and other uncultivated land in the north of Scotland, was a great mistake,

and that this land could be utilised for more practical purposes. The late Duke of Sutherland was one who entertained some feeling of the sort, and he was magnanimous enough to spend something like a million and a quarter to reclaim land which had been used from time immemorial for deer forests and sheep runs. Hundreds of thousands of acres had accordingly been laid under cultivation, with the result that the whole thing had turned out to be a complete failure. The land which it was intended should be used for agricultural purposes had become practically valueless, and what was being done now was to bring it as speedily as possible back to its native condition. They were under a great obligation not only to the present Duke but to his predecessors for a large amount of good done in the district. He thought he might be allowed to add that the Duke was in a large measure indebted to the Duchess of Sutherland for help in this direction.

Messrs. W. Stanley, J. H. Walmsley and H. L. Thompson were then elected councillors in the customary manner.

Alderman Folker submitted "The newly-elected councillors," for whom councillor J. H. Walmsley replied.

Alderman C. Adams proposed the health of the mayor, to whom he referred as an old member of the corporation, who thoroughly understood its business. Having been a member of the ancient body for forty-nine years, he could safely say that no mayor who had gone before had fulfilled the duties better than the present mayor had done.

The mayor, in returning thanks, referred to the fact that the ancient corporation was founded in 1783, and there were some matters in connection with it which were perhaps not so well known to many, and it might be desirable to recall

one or two facts entered on the records. For instance, one good feature in connection with the corporation from the first had been that no property qualification for membership was needed, in which respect a good example had been set to Imperial Parliament itself, as well as to other minor institutions, so that it might fairly be said that the whole country was indebted to this ancient corporation. Then again, the mode of admittance, free from bribery and corruption, conducive to jovial actions and kindest feeling, was an example worthy of all imitation. Her Majesty the Queen commenced her long and glorious reign, which they were all proud to say had not yet terminated, and the members of this ancient corporation had all along been loyal subjects, which had had a good effect on the commonwealth. The fifty-nine years of her Majesty's reign had been a bright part of a very busy century. Statesmen, poets, historians, novelists, artists—such men as Beaconsfield and Gladstone, Browning and Tennyson, Dickens and George Elliott, Ruskin and Millias, and a thousand others, inspired with the principles animating this corporation, had achieved wonders in the matter of locomotion, telegraphic and telephonic communications, and they hoped that the ancient corporation might continue its beneficent career, and our dear old country go on and prosper, as she will do, in spite of the croaking of a pessimistic few, if they upheld the traditions of the institution.

Alderman Folker, in proposing the election of councillor Spanton as mayor for the ensuing year, said it was interesting to recall the fact that 114 years ago the then senior surgeon of the North Staffordshire Infirmary was in practice where the shop of Messrs. Allbut and Daniel now stood, and that the house now occupied by the gentleman whose election he was

proposing was built by the originator of the ancient corporation, Ephraim Chatterley.

Alderman C. Daniel seconded the proposition, and it was carried with unanimity.

The mayor-elect briefly returned thanks expressing his intention to do all in his power to maintain the dignity of the office.

Councillor Woodall, M.P., in proposing "The recorder," referred to the fact that his Parliamentary life covered nearly the same period as the recordership of alderman Hamshaw, and said that during this time Parliament had maintained a continuous progress, had furthered beneficent reforms, had added to the liberties, and had done much to promote the health and to add to the comforts of the people. They heard much to-day about the responsibilities of the State in regard to the aged and the unemployed, and they were urged, often in very strong language, to press forward these questions for practical solution; but practical men like those present, with the weight of 114 years' experience upon them, would not need to be told that these problems were not free from danger. How gladly they recognised the contrast between the condition of the country, and especially of the labouring classes, then and now. In material welfare, in physical health, in the condition of their dwellings, in the character of clothing, as well as in such higher matters as education, religion, and morals, the contrast between the condition of the country towards the end of last century and to-day might mark two nations and two races. Crime had now absolutely and relatively diminished. We were taking down our prisons, and devoting them to more useful purposes. We were also overtaking the

great scandal of pauperism. The figures were still high, but they were yielding to wise treatment. They could look back upon a century of great achievements. They hoped next year to celebrate the sixtieth year of the reign of a Queen whose sovereignty had been marked by the greatest achievements of legislation, of philanthropy, and everything that had been good and beneficent; and they could not on an occasion like that fail to throw forward their minds, and to hope that a continuation of their excellent fellowship might be maintained, so that those coming a century hence might acknowledge that in the meantime something had been done to make this country of ours that which it was relatively to-day, the most prosperous and the most happy country on the face of God's earth.

The recorder replied in a humorous strain, mentioning among the subjects which he should set down, the lengthened reign of the Queen, the death of Archbishop Benson, the crisis in Turkey, the success of the recent musical festival, and the necessity of an improvement in the streets of the town.

Alderman Spanton gave "The Press," to which councillors Ingamells and Thompson replied.

The Apollo Glee Singers sang in a manner which was heartily appreciated; the mayor sang "Father O'Flynn," councillor Mountford contributed a 'cello solo, Mr. J. Oakes sang "Scenes that are brightest," Mr. P. Ralphs "In cellar cool," and Mr. C. L. Forrester "Ho, Jolly Jenkin." Councillor F. Mountford ably accompanied.

1897.

On Monday, November 8th, "Ye one hundred and fifteenth celebration of ye Hanley venison feaste of ye antiente corporation of ye towne and countie of Hanley was holden at ye Court-roome of ye worshipful ye Stipendiare Magistrate at ye hall of ye towne and countie of Hanley." The mayor (councillor W. D. Spanton) presided, and among the other members of the corporation present were alderman J. L. Hamshaw (recorder), alderman Strick, C.B., alderman the Rev. E. D. Boothman (chaplain).

After dinner, which included "Ye haunche of bucke, from ye forest at Dunrobin, in the north countrie, of ye gude Duke of Sutherland," the mayor gave "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other members of the Royal Family." Referring to the death of the Duchess of Teck, he said those who knew her found her to be a true and thoroughly good woman. She followed the best traditions of royalty, and was one of the most amiable and best-loved women in the country.

The recorder read letters of apology from the Duke of Sutherland, who was unable to be present because he had been summoned to Sandringham ; Mr. J. Heath, M.P., the Rev. the Hon. L. Tyrwhitt, and others.

Councillor W. Woodall, M.P., gave the health of the Duke of Sutherland and thanks for his venison." He said he could conceive it possible that one might be called upon to propose a member of the peerage on an occasion where there might be some difference of opinion. Happily his toast would excite nothing but most unanimous approbation. They of the ancient corporation had been accustomed to look to the noble

house of Trentham for their venison, and they had never failed to receive that gift indicative of a neighbourly and kindly feeling. While they looked back on the neighbourly acts of the Earls of Gower and Dukes of Sutherland, and recalled the stories of interest taken by them in the district, they could not find anyone who had more entered himself into the work of the district than the present Duke. He could not leave the Trentham house without a reference to the Duchess of Sutherland and the continued interest she had taken in the philanthropic problems of the district. The toast was received with musical honours.

The following new councillors were then duly nominated and elected, after taking the oath of the corporation: Messrs. A. H. Heath, F. H. Wedgwood, Crosbie-Dawson, F. Godwin J. Pennington, G. Jacober, P. M. Cox, J. Charlesworth, A. S. Dix, A. Scrivener, T. Spearpoint, R. Johnson, F. H. Dyche, T. Malkin, and H. M. Richardson.

Alderman C. Daniel gave the "new councillors," coupling with the toast the names of Mr. A. H. Heath, and Mr. F. H. Wedgwood.

Councillor Heath, in responding, said he felt greatly honoured at being allowed to respond for such an imposing and important array of new councillors. It was very gratifying to him to know that he had been unanimously elected a councillor of the ancient corporation, because he had got so used to being rejected by the Junior Corporation. The fame of the old corporation had gone abroad, and he was bound to say he entered upon the duties of councillor with some anxiety and trepidation. The days of deep drinking had gone by, and he was therefore glad that perhaps some teetotal member of the corporation had broken the big glass which

new councillors were expected to drain before becoming qualified. He hoped succeeding generations would maintain the high reputation of the old corporation.

Councillor Wedgwood also responded. He was proud to be associated with them, and to find by reference to the records that the names of the members were now, as at the start, almost distinctly Staffordshire. The names were repeated time after time. The world was mixing more and more, and Staffordshire became less distinctly Staffordshire in certain senses day by day ; but he hoped that corporation would always consist mainly of Staffordshire people.

Alderman Folker proposed that councillor Woodall be elected mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor Woodall had represented them in Parliament for a great many years, and to the satisfaction of everyone, even of those most opposed to him in politics. He would make a most excellent successor to the present mayor.

The nomination was seconded by the recorder.

Councillor Woodall, having been unanimously elected, returned thanks. He could not help feeling like a certain character in a French comedy who had been all his life speaking prose without knowing it, because he had just heard there was still room for further improvement in him. The district had been kind enough to confide many things in him, many opportunities of usefulness, but he had never looked forward to such a culmination as being made mayor of that old corporation. Politically there were many differences of opinion, and nowhere more so than in that district, but they had the generous feeling of good fellowship, which made them overlook those divisions of opinion and kept alive the spirit



QUEEN'S HOTEL, MANLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.



CHATTERLEY HOUSE, HANLEY.

The residence of Alderman W. D. Spanton, F.R.C.S., Recorder in 1900; of Ephraim Chatterley, Mayor in 1783; James Whitehead, Mayor in 1793, and Dr. Thomas Head, in 1843. In the house adjoining lived John Tomlinson, Mayor in 1804, and William Bishop, Mayor in 1833.

of brotherhood. That ancient corporation had this effect. He hoped it would be continued for many years to come, and that he would have the honour to contribute in some degree in cementing the union and bind closely together their feelings.

Alderman Strick, C.B., gave "The mayor."

The mayor in responding said: In this, the exceptional year of the great jubilee, when honours have been rather freely bestowed, amongst others that of Colonel Strick, C.B., one important omission has been that of not granting the title of "lord mayor" to this ancient, honourable, and honest corporation, and it is no doubt due to the circumstance that it is essentially a modest corporation, and none of its members had sufficient confidence to put forward such a claim. Otherwise it would no doubt have been immediately granted. I think it may interest you now if I try to give an outline of the conditions which existed around some of those who were the originators of the mayor's feast. This idea arose from the fact that I have the good fortune to possess the house in which your first mayor, Ephraim Chatterley, lived in 1783 (who afterwards built Shelton Hall), where also his nephew, James Whitehead, lived when mayor in 1793, and Ephraim Chatterley again in 1810, also Dr. Thomas Head in 1843; while next door there lived John Tomlinson, who was mayor in 1833. At that time Christopher Charles Chatterley had the Old Hall Works and Job Meigh lived at Bank House in Albion Street, the site of the late Queen's Hotel and present Town Hall. The family of Unwyn, of Chatterley, was formerly of some importance. In the time of Henry VII. William Unwyn married the heiress of Stephen de Chatterley, whose second son settled at the Cloughs. William, the elder, was the head of this

branch. In 1783 the Lord of the Manor, John Bagnall, sold the "waste" on which Chatterley House was built, with about thirty acres of land, to Ephraim Chatterley. It was then used as a pottery for jowls and steins, clay being got from the fields below, which had been "anciently enclosed." At that time James Whitehead, in partnership with Charles Whitehead, had the manufactory opposite, then called "Chatterley Works" from being previously held by Ephraim and Charles Chatterley. This has been, as you know, taken down by the Hanley Corporation, and is now occupied as a waste ground for all sorts of refuse. The first recorder was a surgeon of repute and of few words, William Smallwood, who lived close by in 1783; and if I were to name the subsequent office holders it will be found that a large proportion of them lived within a stone's throw of Chatterley House. This may, therefore, be considered the nursery of the ancient corporation, and, as I shall try to show, the most important institutions and other civilising agencies in this town have sprung from those who have been born in the ancient corporation. About this time there lived at the corner of what is now Parliament row, a man styled "Sauntering Ned," who worked at Toft's Pottery opposite, now occupied by Johnson Bros. It is told of him that he was on one occasion returning from Cheadle with his donkey and pots. On nearing Bucknall the donkey walked up to a horse near an open grave, where some of the resurrection men were at work. One of the men seeing it exclaimed, "My God, Jim, the Devil," and made off as fast as they could. Ned changed his donkey for the horse and trap, and quietly made off with both. Hanley, it is said, at that period, viewed from Wolstanton, presented a beautiful object for contemplation. The people of Hanley then spent their sabbaths in cock-fighting,

bull-baiting, man-fighting, and similar pursuits—most of which were arranged at the Cock Inn, Far Green, which still exists. Mining operations were then going on in what is now the Market Square, and the district around was only half cultivated. Parliament Row was a shraff heap with a pool near. The Swan Inn, where so many of the gatherings took place, stood where is now the Market Terrace. The only Market Hall, established in 1790, was a rude structure chiefly used as a place of detention for those put in the stocks, having in one corner the watch-house, and in another “two very secure dungeons and lock-ups”—necessary enough, no doubt, in those days. The free fights between the villages of the Lower Green and the Upper Green have left their impress in the antagonism which even now prevails between the inhabitants of Shelton and those of Hanley. Until St. John’s Church was built in 1737, there was no place of worship nearer than Stoke, when the Rev. John Middleton was made the first curate-in-charge. He was seventy years of age at the inauguration of the ancient corporation, at which he was present and took an active part. He was a very remarkable man, and Hanley owes much to him. The year after, he was the means of averting the destruction of Trentham Hall by an infuriated mob instigated by agitators. When at the Old Swan Inn at Cliff Bank (he was evidently fond of inns, for the Sea Lion, known as the Church House, was his headquarters when at home) he commanded the mob to stop and effectually dispersed them. Two old customs in Hanley owed their origin to Mr. Middleton. He it was who instituted the punishment of drunken men by causing the offender to sit before the congregation during divine service, and the drunken women to undergo the ordeal of the ducking-stool. This was usually done at Clementson’s pool, in Broad Street, when Piccadilly was a boggy field, and

rooks built their nests in the trees of that locality. It was a kind of summary justice which met with general approbation. He died in 1802, and was essentially a good Hanley man. Another person of note, the first recorder, William Smallwood, who was the first surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, an institution which originated from a meeting held at the Swan Inn, July 28th, 1802. At that time the population of Hanley did not exceed 7,000—was probably less, and was much scattered. Now we are nearly nine times as many, and yet our numbers in the ancient corporation have not much increased. A curious illustration of the condition of the district at that date I find in the first number of the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, December 17th, 1796, in the following advertisements:—"Sale at Hulton Abbey, of 732 oaks, 129 'cyphers,' 60 alders, &c., excellent timber for ship building." "The Theatre, Uttoxeter. The Jew and Animal Magnetism." "Wanted, immediately, nine young men who love the King and country, and who equally detest French principles and French barbarity, for the service of his Majesty's army. A handsome bounty by applying to the churchwardens of the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme." The churchwardens in those days had clearly other duties than pertain to them now. In 1817 a numerous meeting of inhabitants resolved "that in the future all public meetings convened by a majority of the Head Constables (now called Chief Bailiffs) of Hanley, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, Longton, Burslem, and Tunstall, shall be considered as regularly convened, and shall be held at Hanley, as the most central place of meeting for the Potteries at large." This resolution, I believe, has never been abrogated, and still holds good. I find a suggestion made by a writer in 1843 that, "as Hanley and Shelton constitute the middle town, and the chief town, should a common name be thought desirable

for a district so circumstanced, none so appropriate could be fixed upon as that of Middleton, which does not at present belong to any town in Staffordshire." What a pity that suggestion was not acted upon in 1885! Shortly after this we find the town supplied with water by John Smith, whose waterworks were between Waterloo Street and Woodwall, from whence spring water was pumped to Windmill Hill, and supplied not only to Hanley, but also to Burslem and Cobridge. At that time the Fourdriniers established their new paper mills, which revolutionised paper manufacture for this district. G. H. Fourdrinier was mayor in 1835. Woodwall Well, at the bottom of Well Street, was a common fountain for everyone. I can remember people resorting to Botteslow Well, half a mile away as a spring of great repute—especially for sore eyes. In 1843 most of the leading people of Hanley had become very fond of bowling and the whist table, while not a few substituted for these the more boisterous, but not more rational amusement of horse racing. There were people living in my time who used to watch the Hanley races on the racecourse from the backs of houses in Piccadilly, and remember having gathered blackberries in Hope Street. I may mention that in 1850 the first baths in Hanley were established by the Eastwood Mill Company, called the Eastwood Baths, with hot, cold and swimming, the latter covering an area of 3,000 feet—another instance of the advantage accruing from a member of the ancient corporation. I should have liked to allude to some of the great improvements since this date, especially in this town. They are great; no one can help realising the advance in public building, lighting, roadways, means of communication, provisions for intellectual and spiritual teaching, and sanitation in every direction, and no doubt the town has progressed enormously, but I am by no means sure that modern sanitary arrangements are any better

than the old crude ones, unless they are carried out fully. To have w.c.'s without water, to have main sewers practically without any fall, to ventilate the foul gases directly under the noses of the public, and to be without ample means for segregation of persons attacked with infectious disease, is a condition of things which I am quite sure this corporation would never have tolerated—and cannot possibly sanction. In the good old days of the last century boys and girls were, no doubt, sadly neglected—as when Sir Boyle Roche told the Speaker of the House of Commons—“Sorr, juvenile depravity is now such that children who can neither walk nor talk, run about the streets, cursing their Maker !” Now the pendulum has swung to an opposite extreme, and there is danger of children being pampered and overtaught, and forbidden to work to a degree which tends rather to manufacture little prigs than the fore-runners of useful men and women. This recital brings me to modern times, and it would be presumptuous in the presence of those I see around me, to enlarge upon it. One ancient friend, alderman Adams, completes his fiftieth year of membership to-night. Alderman Folker has had thirty-five years experience, and there are other aldermen present who have had even a longer one, and it is a matter of intense satisfaction to us younger ones to see them hale and hearty in this Jubilee Year, and if you could have seen them at the preliminary aldermanic council chamber, you would have good reason to congratulate them on their juvenility—a living testimony to the beneficial influences of this ancient corporation. I would only that desire to add my conviction as a quiet, peace-loving citizen, the membership of your old corporation is a good thing. The clergy have always found it so; and as none of us, I hope, belong to that class of “incarnate paradoxes who would rather see their fellow-creatures cry than smile,” I trust it may go on and prosper.

The "recorder" was proposed by the mayor, and Mr. Hamshaw, in responding, read the records for the year.

1898.

The 116th celebration of the venison feast of the ancient corporation of Hanley took place in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, November 8th. Councillor William Woodall, M.P., the mayor for the year, presided, and the vice-chairs were occupied by aldermen Thomas Bickley and J. Clare. There were also present aldermen W. D. Spanton, T. Taylor, R. E. Narramore, C. Adams, C. Daniel, the Rev. E. D. Boothman, G. Leason, Councillors J. Lowe, J. H. Walmsley, W. J. J. W. Heath, A. Goodwin, L. H. Jahn, T. A. Speakman, A. S. Dix, G. G. Leason, W. T. Leason, G. Jacober, A. Wenger, T. Spearpoint, J. Munro, J. H. Harrison, J. Ingamells, J. J. Mitchell, and alderman J. L. Hamshaw, recorder.

The following gentlemen were duly initiated as members of the corporation by the recorder:—Messrs. Read, H. J. Johnson, H. E. Bishop, W. A. McClure, L. Solon, Hy. Watkin, W. Palmer, and W. Findon.

An excellent banquet was provided by councillor J. Munro, a fine haunch of venison having been presented by the Duke of Sutherland. During the dinner some good instrumental music was supplied, and at intervals during the evening some capital vocal music was contributed by members of the corporation, the cup-bearer on the occasion being councillor W. J. J. W. Heath.

Alderman Spanton having proposed the health of the new councillors, councillor Solon, in responding, said ever since he

had lived in the Potteries it had been his wish to identify himself with everything of local interest. All that referred to the past history, old customs, and festivals of the district were attractive to him. It would seem that their forefathers, when they selected Hanley as the seat of the ancient corporation, knew that the small place of that time was to become the metropolis of a very populous and prosperous district, and that it would be a convenient trysting-place where all the select inhabitants of the district might meet to enjoy themselves. He earnestly wished success to the ancient corporation.

The other new councillors also responded to the toast.

Alderman Taylor, in highly complimentary terms proposed the health of the mayor, and after a few remarks from alderman C. Adams upon councillor Woodall's uniform kindness and courtesy, the toast was drunk with musical honours.

The mayor, who was very heartily received, said he recalled, as doubtless many other members would, the interesting story that was told at the last anniversary by alderman Spanton, who let them know something of the social and other conditions of Hanley at the time of the establishment of the ancient corporation, and he was glad to hear that it was to have something more than the ephemeral interest of a newspaper notice, and was to be incorporated with the history of the ancient corporation and take permanent form. How could they help that night in taking part in the 116th celebration of the ancient corporation endeavouring as well as they could to recall the circumstances of the year 1783, which saw the first meeting of the founders of the institution. At that time the independence of the United States had just been recognized; England had come to an agreement with France,

but the Continent was simmering of revolution, which broke out largely afterwards in the struggles which shook the whole framework of society throughout Europe. Hanley at that time had a population which was very small; it had nothing worthy the name of Local Government, except the old parochial Guardians. But subsequently an Act was passed by Parliament which obliged the Guardians to find work for the unemployed. Wedgwood after gaining great repute in Burslem, built his manufactory at Etruria, and largely due to his enterprise the Trent and Mersey Canal had been constructed. Roads throughout the country were improved. At the end of this century one recalled the saying of Emerson that "not trial by jury but dinner is the capital institution of Great Britain." There is another authority who told them if a place like Hanley should be destroyed by earthquake, the surrounding inhabitants would celebrate the event by a dinner. Now they were approaching events in what their French friends would call the *fin de siècle*, they were able to recognize a century which had been more profitable in inventions and achievements than the whole period of all the ages preceding. Take, for example, the means of communication. If the Dr. Spanton of 115 years ago wished to send a patient to the Mediterranean, it would have been almost an impossibility. At any rate, Dr. Spanton might now make the journey in a shorter time than they could at the period named visit London. Councillor Woodall then proceeded to speak of the effects of steam, the telegraph, the telephone, and the phonograph, observing that they were in their infancy in regard to the problems relating to electricity. He next spoke of the introduction of machinery and the increased means of production, by which the well-being of persons employed had been promoted. At the time this corporation was founded there was only one church in Hanley—and it was a proprietary

chapel in trust—and there was not a nonconformist place of worship. There was much to rejoice at in the change which had since been brought about. He next referred to the immense amount of English capital invested in foreign countries, and the growth of the empire, pointing out that it involved great responsibilities, liabilities, and expenditure. He next touched upon the Maxim and other quick-firing and long-distance weapons. Meeting as they now did under circumstances so changed, and so agreeable, they should remember that those who at different times formed part of the membership of that corporation had been active citizens contributing to the progress which had been made. In the century before them it might not be in their power to shape the destiny of their country, but they could at best emulate the virtues and the patriotism of their predecessors, and keep alive the excellent qualities of good fellowship which lay at the foundation of the ancient corporation.

The other toasts on the list were “the recorder,” “the Mayors and Chief Bailiffs of Hanley and neighbouring towns,” and “the Press.”

Alderman Hamshaw, in returning thanks, said that he had that evening eaten his twenty-fifth successive dinner at the festive board of the corporation. He greatly appreciated the kindness shown to him as recorder, now for the lifetime of a generation, and although he began to feel the cares of office, he hoped he might be permitted for a few years longer to place his poor but dutiful services at the disposal of his fellows. In humorous strain, he detailed some of the events of the past year which it would be his duty to record, mentioning in his short review of them that Lord Kitchener's victory at Omdur-

man and Khartoum and his march to Fashoda proved how accurate and how near fulfilment was last year's prophecy (as entered in last year's records) that the mayor, aldermen, and councillors would soon journey from Alexandria to Cape Town across the Dark Continent. With regard to Fashoda, he stated his opinion that neither Frenchmen nor Englishmen would (in Scottish phrase) "fash" themselves about a "mudbank on the Nile;" and concerning the "Cheeny Bonk," where the sun rises, which a lot of "mester" potters were trying to play tricks on, he thought that as the "Bonk" was built long before they were thought of, the old place would probably be where it was many years after they were gone and forgotten.

Councillor W. J. J. W. Heath was elected mayor for the ensuing year.

1899.

The 117th venison feast took place at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 14th, when there was a large attendance. Councillor W. J. J. W. Heath, the mayor, presided, the vice-chairmen being aldermen John Clare and Thomas Taylor. There were also present: aldermen W. H. Folker, C. Adams, W. D. Spanton, R. E. Narramore, J. T. Howson, G. Leason, and the Rev. E. D. Boothman; councillors T. Bullock, C. E. Bullock, A. Wenger, L. Solon, T. M. Goddard, W. M'Clure, B. Howson, W. T. Leason, G. Leason, jun., H. Boddington, L. H. Jahn, J. H. Collings, W. Stanley, A. S. Dix, C. H. Phillips, G. Clarke, W. Forshaw, J. Ingamells, the Rev. W. S. Knowles; Messrs. G. Ellis (Mayor of Hanley), A. Edwards (Mayor of Longton), W. Webster (Mayor of Newcastle), F. Geen (ex-Mayor of Stoke), F. R. Patzer, F. S.

Stringer, G. H. Stringer, J. E. Moxon, H. S. Dix, A. J. Lodge, G. E. Phillimore, E. James, G. Barlow, G. F. Ann, A. W. Read, A. Huntbach, H. J. Wildin, L. Solon, jun., A. C. Wenger, J. Griffiths, B. Howson, H. W. Figgins, J. T. Cliffe, F. C. Wardle, and C. R. A. Vallancey. The banquet was supplied by councillor John Munro, and included a haunch of venison from Dunrobin.

At the conclusion of the repast the loyal toasts, proposed by the mayor, were heartily received. Councillor T. Bullock proposed "The clergy," and said one reason why this toast should be accepted cordially was that it had coupled with it the name of the chaplain, the Rev. E. D. Boothman. Councillor Bullock made suitable reference to the connection with the ancient corporation of the late alderman J. L. Hamshaw, the recorder, expressing regret that death had since their last gathering severed that long connection.

Alderman the Rev. E. D. Boothman replied. Councillor Bullock had, he said, touched a very tender chord in referring to his late friend, whom he might almost have comprehended in this toast, for it had been said that Mr. Hamshaw was more clerical than the clergy. It was with the keenest sorrow that they experienced the parting.

Councillor A. H. Heath, who was loudly cheered, gave "The army, navy, and reserve forces." He had himself the honour to serve her Majesty in a very humble capacity as a Staffordshire yeoman. Perhaps there was no time in the history of our empire when we realised as advantageously as we did at present how absolutely united the volunteers were with the regulars. He referred to the loyalty which had recently been manifested in the Colonies by soldiers coming forward to aid

the British Army in South Africa. Alluding to the Volunteer forces and the value of their services, he said he should be very sorry if his son did not some day wear Her Majesty's uniform in some capacity or other.

Alderman Folker, who responded, referred to the rapid mobilization of the forces required for South Africa, and said he was perfectly certain that if all besides should fail and it was left to the volunteers to defend the country, they would prove a very tough morsel for the enemy to deal with.

Alderman Taylor proposed the health of the Duke of Sutherland, with thanks for his venison, and expressed a hope that the Duke would grace their dinner by his presence at an early date. The toast was drunk with musical honours.

The mayor then made reference to the death of the late recorder, and submitted the following resolution:—"The mayor, alderman and councillors of this ancient corporation desire to record the deep sense of the loss which not only they, but all in this district, have sustained by the sad death of their late recorder, alderman John Lovell Hamshaw. In him they had a valuable officer who for nearly 23 years not only maintained the best traditions of their body, but by the force of his example and his unfailing devotion to its affairs, has laid them under a deep debt of obligation which will not readily be forgotten by those who knew him. They further desire to assure his family of their deep sympathy in the bereavement which has befallen them."

The resolution was carried in silence.

The mayor, who was enthusiastically cheered, acknowledged the kindness with which the corporation had honoured him, and

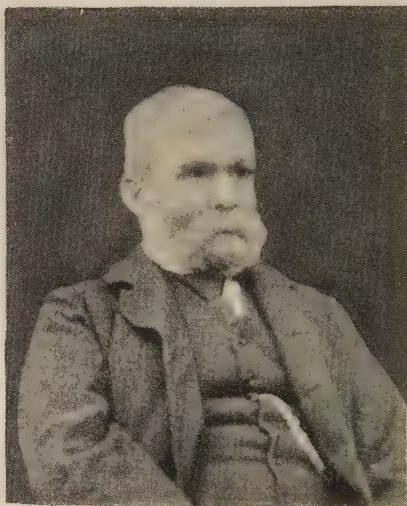
proceeded to give a sketch of the life of the corporation since the time when Newcastle was the only borough in North Staffordshire. Of the pleasantest nature were the gatherings of the members. Over the entrance to their assembly room might well appear the word "Peace." They shut out all controversy, all cares, whether of a personal or professional or business character, and when they left they did so with the knowledge that they had done something which otherwise would not have been done to make one another happier and better men.

On the proposition of the mayor, seconded by alderman Adams, supported by alderman Leason, alderman Spanton was appointed recorder of the ancient corporation, and that gentleman acknowledged the compliment. Alderman Spanton then, as recorder, initiated as members the twenty-four gentlemen whose names are at the bottom of the list of those present at the banquet, beginning with the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Hanley. Alderman J. Clare acted as cup-bearer. Alderman G. Leason proposed the health of the newly-elected members, councillors Moxon and Phillimore briefly responding on their behalf.

On the motion of alderman Adams, seconded by councillor the Rev. W. S. Knowles, councillor Arthur Heath, amidst great applause, was appointed mayor for the ensuing year.

Alderman Clare, in highly complimentary terms, proposed the health of the retiring mayor, which was drunk with musical honours, and was suitably acknowledged.

Councillor Arthur Heath proposed the health of the new recorder, observing that the members of the corporation might congratulate themselves on their good fortune in securing the



3. JOHN LOVELL HAMSHAW
COUNCILLOR-1874, MAYOR 1886, RECORDER 1877 TO 1899.



4. WILLIAM DUNNETT SPANTON, F.R.C.S.

COUNCILLOR 1886, MAYOR 1897, RECORDER 1899.

RECORDERS.

STOKE-ON-TRENT
CITY

services of such an eminent and able man as alderman Spanton. The toast was cordially received.

The recorder, in acknowledging the toast, made the following remarks:—We have to record unfortunately the death of some of our members during the past year. Foremost among these is our late esteemed recorder, whose loss you have formally placed on record. Mr. Hamshaw was a man whose loss will be greatly felt—one who impressed all those around him with his earnestness of purpose, and his unflinching aim to do what he felt to be right, and do it well. Such men are rare, and you will never have another more able or more faithful to the traditions of this ancient corporation. Another old councillor, Dr. John Thomas Arlidge, has passed away, full of years and after a life of eminently useful work; he might well be termed the potters' friend. His investigations into the diseases incident to the industry of the district, and his unwearied efforts to avert and remedy them obtained for him a world-wide reputation as an authority; and his humane and kindly disposition brought him a large circle of friends among all classes; while his literary and scientific abilities were universally appreciated. A third well-known old councillor, alderman George Ridgway, whose active municipal life, spent in the service of the Junior Corporation, for many years has borne abundant fruit. He was always highly respected, and universally esteemed as an upright conscientious man, whose chief anxiety was to devote himself to advancing the best interests of his fellow-townsmen. Of all these one may rightly say, the good that such men do lives after them. The district has also lost its well-known County Court Judge, Mr. T. H. Jordan. His eminent career was marked by strong commonsense, and although his decisions did not please everybody (as they ought to have done) he was a power in the district for many years, and his influence

will long be felt. A terrible war has broken out between this country and the Transvaal, a result of the disastrous compromise made in 1881. While negotiations were pending with a view to the pacific settlement of matters in dispute—chiefly arising out of the tyrannical conduct of President Kruger—an ultimatum was sent to England on October 9th, couched in terms which no Great Power could accept. A fierce war has resulted, large numbers of our brave troops have been despatched, and an army corps is on its way under the command of General Sir Redvers Buller. One marked result has been the offer of help from our colonies, and contingents are already arriving in South Africa from Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the defence of the Empire of our Queen. Such loyalty is a very significant indication of what Great Britain can do ; in spite of the babyish wails of the so-called “Little Englanders.” The Empire is united ; the result must be to crush the supremacy of the Boers, whose rule has been one of oppression and cruelty to white and black races alike. In the improbable event of an arbitrator being needed, the mayor of the ancient corporation is ready to offer his valuable services at a rate commensurate with the magnitude of such a delicate and important office. The triennial musical festival has been held in Hanley this year, when a new work by an Anglo-African, Mr. Coleridge-Taylor, was performed, “The Death of Minnehaha,” and the performance by the local choirs and orchestra, led to the conclusion that the musical art promises to show a great revival and place North Staffordshire in the forefront as to musical ability. A Telephone Bill has been introduced to enable the Government to take over telephonic lines or to lease them to local authorities. It is to be hoped the existing companies will see what this means—to the ancient corporation more particularly—and reduce the price accordingly, a course which

will benefit everybody, shareholders included. The very poor children of the Pottery towns have now a delightful Holiday Home provided for them on the Hanchurch hills by the Duke of Sutherland. Hanley has done its full share, both in sending children and providing funds to support this most useful and beneficent home, in which the Duchess takes the keenest interest. Electric tramways in place of steam are now running in Hanley and between the other Pottery towns. Some of the new tramcars running away on the slippery rails have afforded a practical illustration of greased lightning as a motor power. A light railway has been sanctioned to open up the wild country beyond Leek ; very useful for farmers. A large county asylum for the insane has been built at Cheddleton. No doubt the necessity for such a large establishment might have been obviated if everyone could have had the advantage of belonging to the A. C., as no lunatics have ever been known among its members. The Dreyfus trial, or persecution in France (a parody on justice), terminated in the conviction of an innocent man. The President of the French Republic, recognising this, set him free. The ancient corporation tenders its warm congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland on the approaching marriage of their two nieces—Miss Chaplin to Viscount Castle-reagh, and the Countess of Cromartie to Major Blunt. The largest ocean steamer ever built, the *Oceanic*, has been a great success. It was quite an omission not to invite the mayor of the ancient corporation on her maiden voyage. Perhaps the next biggest steamer may have this honour, and he might be accompanied by the aldermen in their State robes. Wireless telegraphy (Marconi's) has now reached such perfection as to be used in war, and to warrant the assumption it will be the telegraphy of the future. The recorder feels confident in time of being able to communicate directly with his more ancient

brother in the planet Mars. During the past session "an Act to amend the Summary Jurisdiction Act" has been passed, which enlarges the powers of the justices to deal summarily with various offences, and to order whipping for boys. This is likely to be highly beneficial, and was much needed. The Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, makes provision for such children, and gives power to school authorities to find out and provide for proper education of such unfortunate beings. The Board of Education Act, 1899, is an important departure, as it provides practically for a Minister of Education with a Board to take the place of the present Education Department, including that of Science and Art. It is to come into operation on All Fools' Day, 1900. The trade of this district has been exceptionally good and free from trade union storms. Some property at the corner of Market Square has been recently sold by auction at the rate of £58 per square yard; which seems to suggest a gold, or at least a silver, mine thereabouts; someone thinks more probably "black diamond." Your recorder having been in the neighbourhood of the North Pole this summer, made tender inquiries after Andr  e, but no tidings could be obtained of him or his balloon, and it is feared there never will be any. One lady kept a keen look-out for the famous North Pole, but was not successful in distinguishing a pole of any kind. Professor Falk prophesied two years ago that the world was to come to an end yesterday at nine minutes before three or thereabouts, by colliding with Biela's comet; but the Astronomer Royal of the A.C. was sceptical about this, and his advice to hold this Festival as usual has been justified by its brilliant success. With a legal mayor, it is deemed but right that not only should these important records be signed, but also in accordance with immemorial custom be duly sealed; and as the ancient seal



5. GEORGE LEASON, J.P.



2. THOMAS TAYLOR, J.P.



7. H. PALMER, J.P.



8. W. J. J. W. HEATH



1. REV. E. D. BOOTHMAN, M.A.



4. JOHN CLARE



6. JAS. TAYLOR HOWSON



3. A. HOWARD HEATH, M.P.



9. JOHN BROMLEY, J.P.

ALDERMEN, A.D. 1900.

ALDERMEN A.D. 1900.

(See opposite page.)

1.	Councillor, 1877—Mayor, 1889, Chaplain.
2.	„ 1875 „ 1887.
3.	„ 1897 „ 1900.
4.	„ 1877 „ 1895.
5.	„ 1878 „ 1894.
6.	„ 1886 „ 1896.
7.	„ 1874 „ 1885.
8.	„ 1883 „ 1899.
9.	„ 1879 „ 1888.

has long been lost a new one has been provided for the purpose and used for the first time to-day.

Alderman Adams proposed "The Mayors of Hanley and neighbouring towns," councillor G. Ellis and councillor A. Edwards responding.

Councillor Solon proposed "The Press," councillors Inga-mells and James responding.

This concluded the proceedings, which had been harmonious and enjoyable throughout.

1900.

The 118th venison feaste was held on Tuesday, November 27th. The mayor, the aldermen, and the councillors of the ancient corporation of Hanley, "celebrated their conviviale gathering in ye fashione of their forefathers, in drynkyng ye yarde of ale and eatyng ye Sutherlande venison," at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, when about 50 brethren and guests, the latter being subsequently initiated, partook of the traditional fare. It was a very enjoyable gathering. The room was most comfortably arranged, and a feature of the table decorations was a handsome cut glass and silver loving cup, with goblets to match, which were presented by Mr. A. F. Wenger, to replace the vessels used by the corporation in the distant past. The "mayor" and president of the evening was councillor A. H. Heath, M.P., who was supported by the Mayor of Hanley (Mr. G. Ellis, J.P.), the recorder of the ancient corporation (alderman W. D. Spanton), councillor G. Menzies (agent to the Duke of Sutherland), councillor T. Bullock, J.P., Mr. H. Barrett Greene (editor of

the *Sentinel*), alderman C. Adams, J.P., councillor A. F. Wenger, alderman R. E. Narramore, J.P., alderman W. J. J. W. Heath, and alderman the Rev. E. D. Boothman (chaplain of the feaste). The vice-chairs were occupied by aldermen Clare and C. Daniel, and the company included Dr. W. Hind, councillor Taylor Ashworth, J.P., councillor A. B. Jones, J.P., Mr. R. B. Mellard, J.P. (Mayor of Newcastle), Mr. G. Bennion, C.C. (Mayor of Longton), Mr. W. N. Webster (ex-Mayor of Newcastle), councillor W. T. Leason, councillor A. H. C. Wenger, alderman T. Bickley, councillors W. M. Jackson, J. Pennington, Edmund Jones, H. S. Dix, Wm. McClure, A. J. Lodge, J. Griffith, A. Chew, L. Taylor, C. A. Cowell, J. Cliffe, B. Howson, W. Stanley, J. Collins, G. E. Phillimore, C. E. Bullock, R. G. Clark, P. M. Cox, H. W. Figgins, H. L. Thompson, J. Ingamells, J. H. Harrison, Mr. R. Alcock, Mr. A. E. Boyce, Mr. W. Alfred Meigh, Mr. F. Barber, and Mr. A. E. Cox.

The Staffordshire Yeomanry string band played selections during the dinner, and subsequently letters of apology were read from Lord Dartmouth, the Duke of Sutherland, Mr. C. Woodall (on behalf of Mr. W. Woodall), Mr. James Heath, M.P., Col. Dobson, the Mayors of Burslem and Stoke, the Rector of Hanley, and others.

After an excellent "feaste," the toast of "The Queen" was given from the chair and loyally honoured.

"The clergy" was given by alderman C. Daniel, and councillor Taylor Ashworth responded, in the temporary absence of the chaplain, in a humorous speech.

The toast of "Our Soldiers and Sailors" was next proposed by councillor T. Bullock, who said this was a toast which should be delegated to a man of the calibre and voice of their old

friend alderman Leason, who would have done justice to it both in regard to matter and delivery. He thought that was the first time he had seen the toast submitted in that form, which was far preferable to the old toast of "The Army and Navy," and the toast which came later, "The Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces," because "Our Soldiers and Sailors" was very comprehensive and made no distinction. It treated the Volunteers on the same footing as the regular Army, and having regard to the feats that had been performed in South Africa by soldiers of all degrees, it was the best form in which the toast could be presented to a company of Englishmen. If there was a time in our history when we were proud of our soldiers and sailors, it was at the present moment.

The toast having been heartily drunk, Captain A. B. Jones, V.D., responded, and commenced by addressing the "mayors, ancient and modern," They had changes in their ancient corporation as well as in the modern—more changes in the modern than they cared about—and some of them might wish they were exclusively confined to the ancient. It was a pleasure to be associated with the ancient, and he would say no more. Councillor Jones said that if they had occasion to be proud of Her Majesty's Volunteers, now was the time. They had gone through a long tirade of abuse. They had been called a useless adjunct of the forces, but they had weathered the storm. They had said that when they were called upon they would readily respond to the call of the Queen and Constitution of this magnificent and grand Empire; when, however, these words were uttered in years past they little thought what a response they would get from those beyond the seas who had left us in years gone by, and whose children had now sprung up; they little thought they would have these coming forward so readily

to defend the hearths and homes of England. The response to the present appeal had certainly been more noble than any of them expected, and whenever England and the Queen (who was head of the Army) required the Volunteer forces to defend this "right little, tight little island," they would be ready to fight, and do anything they might be called upon to do.

Councillor A. F. Wenger then gave the toast of "The Duke of Sutherland, and thanks for his venison," pointing out that for the 118th time Sutherland venison had been presented to them. They were sorry that the Duke was not present that evening to see how much they appreciated his gift. In proposing the toast, he took the liberty of presenting them with an initiatory cup. He thought to revive with the new century the traditions of the founders of that worthy corporation, born 118 years ago, who, when they first met, took for qualification of their members, the absorption of a yard of good home-brewed ale. This strong test of their physique was, he thought, worth transmitting. Home-brewed beer was, however, no longer to be had. Perhaps champagne or Hatton water would replace it advantageously. The stags' heads on the cup were to commemorate the generous gifts of venison handed to them by the House of Sutherland since the corporation's foundation. On the upper part of the cup there was room for the engraving of the names of the "mayors" and "recorders" in the coming century, who would preside, he hoped, as in the past over a succession of convivial meetings of all those interested in the welfare of the district.

The interesting announcement that the handsome cup and goblets were presented to the corporation was received with loud cheers.



TRENTHAM HALL.

The seat of Earl Gower, as it appeared in 1783.



TRENTHAM HALL, 1900.

Mr. G. Menzies responded to the toast. It was a very great pleasure to him to realise that one of the Duke of Sutherland's ancestors put his hand to the foundation of that ancient corporation. He was quite sure that he expressed the feeling of the Duke of Sutherland on that occasion when he said that he rejoiced to see this ancient corporation flourishing. His Grace took a deep and wide interest in everything that affected the Pottery towns.

At this stage of the proceedings there was an interval in the toast list for the enacting of a time-honoured ceremony—the election of new councillors and of mayor. The recorder opened the list by proposing the Mayor of Newcastle (Alderman R. B. Mellard). The mayor proposed Mr. H. Barrett Greene, and the following were also proposed and seconded :—Dr. Hind, Messrs. G. Bennion (Mayor of Longton), R. Clark, R. Alcock, W. A. Meigh, A. E. Boyce, C. A. Cowell, F. Barber, A. E. Cox, and H. Logan.

The mayor (councillor A. H. Heath, M.P.), offered a cordial welcome to the new councillors, and then alluding to the handsome present made to the corporation by councillor Wenger, said it was a very graceful gift. He did not know who was responsible for designing such a beautiful and ornamental cup, but it was not only very appropriate to the traditions of the corporation, but it was also a credit to the artist who designed it. On behalf of the corporation, he tendered to councillor Wenger their grateful thanks for the handsome gift, which would remind them not only of the donor, but would, he hoped, appear on the table at the festive gatherings for many years. He hoped it would assist to keep together the old corporation, of which they were justly proud, and that the corporation would always be supported, as at the present time,

by the very best men in the district. He did not know how to express their thanks to councillor Wenger, but he would ask the recorder to do ample justice in the Minute Book to councillor Wenger's munificence. He would ask that gentleman to accept the corporation's grateful thanks for his gift.

The health of councillor Wenger was then cordially drunk, and in acknowledging the toast, he expressed the hope that the cup would keep the corporation in high spirits.

The recorder next announced that they had to proceed to make use of the cup, and said that while it was being filled, he would like to refer to the glass originally used. He found from a note in the records that that glass was broken in 1798, so they were really going back a long time to replace what was lost. Seeing that glass appeared only to have lasted something like fifteen years, he could only hope for a much longer life for the new one, and he would say that so long as it was his pleasure and duty to take charge of it, he would see no harm befell it.

The loving cup was then taken round to each of the new councillors for them to drink "ye yarde of ale." Alderman W. J. J. W. Heath and councillor A. C. Wenger acting as cupbearers. The new councillors severally pledged their fealty to the ancient corporation. The loving cup in its course was the source of much interest.

After the election of the new councillors, the mayor announced that arrangements had been made for the publication of the annals of this ancient corporation. No time could be more suitable for the publication of the book than the commencement of a new century.

Aldermen R. E. Narramore proposed "the new councillors," and the Mayors of Longton and Newcastle, councillor Barrett Greene, and the other newly-elected councillors acknowledged the compliment.

The mayor said his next duty was to propose the new mayor for the coming year, and he had great pleasure in submitting the name of councillor Thomas Bullock. He did not anticipate there would be any objection on the part of the corporation to his proposal, but he could hardly ask them to elect councillor Bullock without some word of recommendation from him. He had known Mr. Bullock for many years and knew that he had sincerely at heart the interests which affected the district of North Staffordshire. There were occasions when he was not always a very welcome guest, but in that corporation, he did not hesitate to say, they would accord him a very hearty welcome as mayor. He was sure Mr. Bullock would fulfil the duties with the dignity which would become his station, and with the earnestness they expected from every member of the corporation.

Alderman C. Adams seconded the nomination with great pleasure, and was sure the business ability and great worth of the new mayor would make him a good successor to councillor Arthur Heath.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The mayor-elect, councillor Thomas Bullock, J.P., acknowledged the vote, and said it would be idle, and would not be truth, for him to say he did not fully appreciate the honour conferred upon him. Of course, in Municipal Corporations it followed when one had rendered so many years' service he was asked to take the office of chief magistrate. That was his good

fortune some years ago in the "young" borough of Newcastle—which was something like 800 years old. He thought it a great honour to be asked to succeed the present mayor, and moreover it had struck him since he came into the room that it was a great honour to be the first mayor of the new century, and further still to be one whose name would be inscribed on the loving cup which councillor Wenger had given. When he thought of these things he felt extremely obliged to the corporation for electing him. Now they would perhaps say it reflected upon his judgment that he did not make any inquiry before accepting the position as to the solvency of the corporation, because it would be very awkward indeed if it went into liquidation during his mayoralty. He had been trying to ascertain while sitting at dinner what the responsibilities and duties of the office were, and his friend Mr. Heath told him he must wait and see.

Alderman C. Adams, J.P., proposed the toast of the evening, "the mayor—Mr. A. H. Heath, M.P.," remarking that "his worship" had performed all his duties in a most satisfactory manner. He thought it was about the forty-third time he (Mr. Adams) had been present at those functions. He congratulated the mayor upon the honours that had that year been conferred upon him, but he thought "his worship" had had no greater honour conferred upon him than being the mayor of that ancient corporation. At the same time he wished their member every prosperity and success.

The toast was accorded musical honours.

Councillor A. Heath, M.P., was warmly received by the aldermen and councillors on rising to respond. He thanked them heartily for the cordial manner in which they had received the

toast. They had paid him a great compliment in electing him as their mayor. The duties of mayor had certainly not been very onerous, but they had been peculiar, and when some of the councillors aspired to the aldermanic bench, they would find that the duties were not so simple as they imagined. There was one great advantage in presiding over the ancient corporation, and that was that they as councillors and aldermen were in complete harmony. Long might that society continue in the same harmonious way to collect from the whole of North Staffordshire the same class of men, representative in many ways of the great interests of the district, as members of their ancient corporation. The recorder, he believed, would presently have an opportunity of reminding them of a number of events that had taken place during the past year; but there were one or two of those events that he (the speaker) could not help referring to. There was absent from that table, on that occasion, a highly-honoured guest and a very highly-respected citizen of the town—he referred to the late Dr. Charlesworth. He knew very well that the fact of the doctor's recent death and funeral that day accounted for the absence of many from their table that night. They had lost not only a very useful member of their society, but the whole district had lost a very useful and highly-respected citizen. Continuing, the speaker said the principal event that had taken place during the past year had been the war in South Africa. They would soon welcome home again some Hanley men from the front, and he had no doubt that they would give the soldiers a very hearty welcome. The principal event of the war had, he thought, been the flight of ex-President Kruger, and the most remarkable thing in connection with that flight was that the ex-President had left Mrs. Kruger behind him. Such conduct showed, he thought, implicit confidence in the Government of this country. Another event

that had taken place was the election of a member of Parliament for the borough during the year, and it was a very significant fact that they should have elected him their mayor the same year that he was elected their member. He had already pointed out that the responsibilities he had undertaken as M.P. were very insignificant indeed compared with the duties of the mayoralty. It happened that their old corporation was not very much harassed about the rates, but the new Corporation, he knew, felt them a very heavy burden. It was not his place to prophesy or express any opinion about municipal governments in general, but perhaps, as they were the oldest corporation in the district, it might not be out of place if he referred to a few thoughts that had occurred to him. Sometimes he thought seriously about the numerous governments in that district, and he thought what had been lost in the past by not combining the whole district into one magnificent Corporation. He did not know whether the Mayors of the important Municipal Boroughs in the district would agree with him, but he did think that if all the Pottery Boroughs had been combined in one great city Corporation their burdens would have been very much lighter; and he did not believe that their Municipal Government would have been any the worse. He did not know whether such a condition of things was ever likely to be brought about. There were certain frictions between the different Corporations with regard to that matter, and he could only say that if they would hand over their affairs to that ancient corporation of which he was mayor they might be relieved of a serious burden, and the ratepayers of a heavy burden of taxation; and he believed the affairs of North Staffordshire would be far better managed than at present.

“The health of the new mayor” was next given by councillor A. H. Heath, M.P., who said no words of his were

necessary to commend their new chief magistrate. He hoped that the new mayor would not find his duties very arduous, and that he would have the same loyal support accorded to him that the speaker had received from the aldermen and councillors of that ancient corporation.

The chaplain (alderman the Rev. E. D. Boothman), said he felt it a great honour to have placed in his hands the toast of the recorder of that ancient corporation. It was a toast of one so highly esteemed and highly respected amongst them; of one who had real solid work to perform for the corporation; of one who had succeeded a dear friend of his, the late recorder. The recorder would prove by his records of the eventful year the enormous influence which that corporation had had upon affairs not only of the district which the mayor desired to be united under one head, but the influence the corporation had exerted upon the realm of England and upon the whole world. They could imagine the solemn duty which he had daily laid upon him, and they would therefore do honour to the toast he proposed.

The toast having been enthusiastically received, the recorder expressed his thanks and said: As recorder, as alderman Boothman has told you, certain important duties fall upon me, the chief of which is to enter in this book, which no doubt most of you have seen—a book of our records, which dates back to 1783—a short account of what has transpired in the world at large, and within the borders of our own sphere, so far as the recorder is able to express them. I shall have unfortunately, among other things, to record the deaths of some of our councillors. In the loss of John Munro, in the prime of life, we miss a genial companion and a man of sterling worth; also George Herbert Stringer, well-known and respected. Still

more recently have we lost councillor James Charlesworth, one who devoted his life to the welfare of his fellow-citizens, who was universally respected and held in the highest esteem. Among those outside our circle, the Duke of Westminster, whose near relation to our own Duke brings his loss home to us. Of Lord Harrowby one can but say his loss was universally felt in this county as a calamity. His uprightness, his geniality and his impartial mind rendered him conspicuous as a county leader. It is a thousand pities he never joined this corporation. Mrs. Gladstone has left this world at a good old age—a lady to whom her husband owed much—to whom the world owes more. The Prince Alfred most of us remember, afterwards our naval Duke of Edinburgh, and later still Duke of Coburg, we have also lost. Quite recently Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, grandson of our beloved Queen, has died while fighting for his country in South Africa. The year 1900 has been a very eventful one. The South African war has been a much bigger affair than anyone anticipated. Begun as most British wars have been with terrible reverses, due in great measure to the preparedness of the God-fearing, peace-loving people of the Transvaal and Orange Free States, it has ended as such wars are bound to end—in the annihilation of both Republics. Lord Roberts, with an army of 220,000 men (landed in South Africa, 6,000 miles away) and the help of his generals and officers, achieved a victory which the future historians will chronicle as one of the great events of history. North Staffordshire has done its duty in sending officers and men of the Yeomanry, Militia and Rifle Volunteers, including some of our own councillors. The defences of besieged places, Mafeking, Kimberley, Ladysmith, by General Baden Powell, by Colonel Kekewitch and Sir G. White, ennoble their commanders and make heroes of the best type of their military and

citizen defenders, of whom our Empire may well be proud. The victorious march to Blomfontein, Johannesburg, to Pretoria and on to the extreme boundary of the Transvaal was one long, hard-fought succession of battles, one curious feature of which was the spiriting away of the enemy's guns—to be resurrectioned at most inopportune moments. Kruger and Steyn seemed to emulate their guns, moving their capital from place to place, and retiring finally to "Pilgrim's Rest"—and thence to oblivion. The terrible roll of our losses indicates the gravity of this war. A war rendered imperative if our Imperial interests are to be maintained, a war which need never have taken place if the intentions of others had been as honest as our own. Trouble has again arisen in Ashanti in connection, it is said, with a desire on the part of our people to find the missing golden stool of King Prempeh. If our mayor had been elected King of Kumasi this would never have happened. It seems hopeless to treat savage tribes like pet dogs: they are sure sooner or later to bite you. One of the most important events I have to chronicle is the foundation of the Commonwealth of Australia—long dreamed of, often talked of, and now accomplished. From July 9th, we have another Nation comprised in our British Empire, like our loyal Dominion of Canada, and united by the golden link of the British Crown. Englishmen may well feel some pride in having the scattered tribes of their family thus united into a consolidated and loyal Empire. A war has arisen in China due to the intrigues of the Court inciting the Boxers to exterminate all foreigners, to murder missionaries and the German Minister. This took place in Peking close to the "Gate of the Heavenly Peace," and within a stone's throw of the "Temple of Heaven." Such conduct is only what we might expect from "Celestials." Our Gallic neighbours across the Channel have been in a very unamiable mood this year,

and among other kind things they tell us in the *Echo de Paris* that we had to bring in the help of gorillas and ourang outangs to overcome the Transvaal. A terrible fate has befallen the chief port of Texas (Galveston) by a cyclone, on September 8th, which destroyed that city and caused the death of 10,000 persons. Another calamity has befallen India in a terrible famine—the more sad because it is not the first, and ought to be preventable.

PARIS EXHIBITION.

A grand attempt to outvie the world, which has miserably failed. What might have been the most brilliant spectacle the modern world has seen was marred by mean jealousies and pettish outbursts of malignity and rudeness on the part of the French populace, which have served to defeat the object of the promoters. Happily there has been one redeeming feature, for some of our local manufacturing firms have left their impress, and brought away prizes.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

has been the object of a dastardly attempt on his life by a wretch named Sipido, whose action a still more dastardly Belgian Court practically condoned. The sympathy of the whole civilized world made itself manifest in no uncertain fashion, amid universal rejoicing at the Prince's escape.

VICTOR EMMANUEL, KING OF ITALY.

A popular, highly-cultured and esteemed monarch, the King of Italy, unfortunately has been the victim of an assassin of the vilest type.

LEAD POISONING.

An inspired outcry against the manufacturers of the Potteries, many of whom are members of the ancient corporation, leads

me to ask why potting alone, of all the industries using lead in this country, should be singled out for reprobation and repressive legislation. Instead of legal restrictions and special rules (one might term them "Extra Special") would it not have been wiser to refer the whole matter to the mayor and aldermen of this ancient body. They would, I feel sure with the assistance of the recorder, have plumbed the difficulty and found a satisfactory bottom readily enough.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STATUTE BOOK

provides us with some interesting additions this year :—Income Tax raised to 1/- ; New Consols for War Loan (absurdly styled Kharki) for sixty millions ; the Volunteer Act, enabling the Government to call out the Volunteers in cases "of imminent national danger or of great emergency," quite alters the status of Volunteers. The Workmen's Compensation Act extends the provisions of the Statute of 1897 to agricultural labourers, and agriculture here has a wide application as it is made to include live stock, poultry and bees. The Miners' Act prohibits the employment of boys under the age of 13 years in any mine underground. The general tendency of recent domestic legislation—as in money-lending—is of a grandmotherly type, to protect the human sparrows and doves from the hawks and vultures which seem to multiply somewhat unduly now-a-days. London has taken to itself a "twopenny tube" which promises to rival in popularity the penny whistle of old. The district has been honoured by the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Leek. No "golden bowl" was broken on that occasion, but a silken cord of patriotic attachment was woven, which we trust will for ever endure. I have to record the marriage of the Rev. Alderman Boothman's daughter, and to congratulate him on her apotheosis into a flowery Meade of Stafford.

Talking of Meades makes one think of song, and enables me to record the signal achievement of the Potteries and District Choral Society, which has won for itself and for us all glory and renown at the National Welsh Eisteddfod in carrying off the chief prize—the first English choir which has ever done it. The Hanley Nursing Society, founded by Thos. Worthington in 1874, has now established itself in a Home for its nurses in Lichfield Street, the only complete existing memorial in Hanley of the Diamond Jubilee of our Gracious Queen Victoria in 1897.

HANLEY ELECTRICITY WORKS.

This has not so far, proved a brilliant success. Happy is the ancient corporation to be able to look on and admire, or stand aghast, as they may prefer, at the want of illumination displayed. Some of the hydrophile “progressives” on the Hanley School Board have been devising schemes and dreaming dreams about unfathomable wealth in the pockets, and inexhaustible stores of patience in the souls, of the much suffering ratepayers. Parliament has been dissolved after a duration of five years. A General Election (generally known as a Kharki one) has resulted in giving the Unionists about the same majority as that with which they came into power five years ago. The five local Members of Parliament are all Unionists, and among them we are proud to number our own mayor. Mr. A. H. Heath’s election (apart from his own merits of course) is distinctly due to the fact of his holding this important office. His brilliant success should excite the ambition of all future mayors. We have at last a “Grand Hotel,” a fact in which the members of the ancient corporation will rejoice, as we have had for many years to wander from pillar to post to find a suitable place for our feast. The fact of the observant ancient corporation meeting here will surely shame the North Stafford-

shire Railway Company into making the Station opposite fit for such important visitors.

The toast of "the Mayors of Hanley and neighbouring towns" was submitted by Mr. George Menzies, who said that as a resident for many years in the neighbourhood it had always been a subject of very great interest to him to watch the keen interest displayed in local municipal affairs by the people of the Potteries. It might possibly be a difficult thing to unite the whole district, but he would not discuss that matter beyond saying that with the fountain of honour and example in that ancient corporation they might venture upon the proposal without fear. To follow the lines of the ancient corporation and be actuated by the same principles, would have a result highly satisfactory to all concerned.

The Mayor of Hanley responded, remarking that he thought the duties of a "Junior" Mayor were more onerous than those of the "mayor" of the ancient corporation. They had not in "Junior" Corporations the same happy faces. Recently they had had a great addition to their Junior Corporation in Hanley. He would himself prefer seeing men of larger standing coming forward to assist in the work of the town. It was not a very pleasant thing for a man to come forward and be "bamboozled" in one way and another, as a Councillor was now-a-days.

The Mayor of Newcastle, in reply, said his father was Mayor of Newcastle in 1857, when Hanley's first Mayor was appointed, and his (the speaker's) father had the honour of entertaining that gentleman (Mr. Ridgway). Mr. Heath had spoken of one great municipality for the Potteries. He thought that Newcastle would be delighted to take the Pottery towns under its wing.

"The Press" was proposed by Mr. A. J. Lodge, who welcomed the Editor of the *Staffordshire Sentinel* as one of their new "councillors." He thought the whole district owed a great debt of gratitude to the *Sentinel* for faithfully recording matters of interest in their midst.

Councillors Ingamells and H. Barrett Greene responded, the latter expressing the hope that he might never have to send a Special Commissioner of the *Sentinel* to examine slums owned by that "ancient" corporation.

The proceedings, which throughout had been of a genial and humorous description, shortly afterwards concluded.

The following account which appeared in the *Staffordshire Sentinel* is worthy of permanent record, and is therefore reproduced here:—

After the venison feast of "ye anciente corporatione of Hanley," on Tuesday evening, I went home and dreamed—dreamed of its mayor, and aldermen, and the newly-made councillors. I don't know what it was; probably the champagne, but I saw Hanley's M.P. in furred robes and chain of office, the aldermen in gowns, and the recorder bewigged and solemn, all as it might have been in years gone by. There was something about the gathering that reminded me of the ancient guilds of the great city of London with their loving cups and princely banquets. Of course there were no wigs or gowns, but they would certainly have been in keeping with the occasion. The tendency now-a-days being to modernise everything, it is a treat to turn to something once in a while with all the beauty given to it by age, and all the cheerfulness and conviviality of the "good old times."

Long before the present Corporation worried the district with rates, the *anciente corporation* held its *mimic* sway. Those were the days of coaching, quaint-looking inns, and matchless home-brewed beer. The feast was a venison one then—the venison of the Earl of Sutherland of 1783. The initiatory ordeal in those days was much more trying than now. You had to drink “ye yarde of ale” at one “pull,” and it was reckoned no small dishonour to cry “hold enough” until the cup was drained to its last drop. Now the old home-brewed ale has become a thing of the past, and one speaker had the temerity to regret the fact.

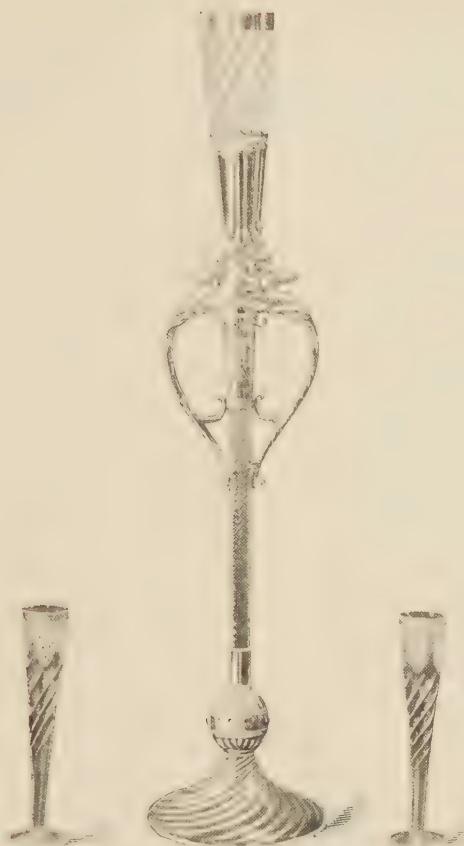
The initiation sign even now is an interesting ceremony, and is provocative of no end of amusement, even among the poor candidates whose lot it is to undergo the ordeal. At the word of command from the recorder all the candidates rise from their seats, and feelings of curiosity creep over them as they see two stalwart cup-bearers approach the first gentleman on the roll bearing a glass a yard in length, while the recorder in solemn voice proclaims the oath of fealty to the *anciente corporation*, and finally calls upon the new councillor to “drink your glass.” The poor fellow sees the liquid being poured into the tapering glass, and the next thing he knows is that the cup is at his lips, and the eyes of the cup-bearers are upon him as they hold it there. You are drinking hard, but down from the vista of the glass the wine still flows. You wish you had taken a longer breath before commencing to imbibe, but it is no good now, you must stick to it, and when with flushed face you see the end of the stream approaching, you give a sigh of relief, know that you have “drunk your glass,” and that the applause of the older brethren is ringing in your ears.

The programme drawn up in the quaint old English style recalled in single verse the manner of the entertainment a century ago. "Aftere the whyche" it said :

"Lulled with the virtues offe ye fraygrante weed ;
 Charmed by ye musicke offe ye tunefulle reede ;
 Awake, then, the soulle ; ye maisteres of ye bowe ;
 Ope chordes within ! the keye so welle ye knowe ;
 Ye guestes in merriment ye eve will passe,
 With ye jovial chorus and fraternalle glass."

More or less humorous were all the after dinner speeches. The words spoken were intended to please ; but with all the humour there was wrapped up one or two serious suggestions that might well be followed up. Some remarks of the Mayor of Hanley and Mr. Arthur Heath, M.P., may be alluded to in this connection. There is, we are told, many a true word spoken in jest. Let us hope that the true words contained in the jests at the venison feast of the ancient corporation will not pass unheeded.

Since the year 1783 have the brethren of this worthy corporation celebrated their convivial gatherings in the fashion of their forefathers by drinking "ye yarde of ale, and eatyng ye Sutherland venison." "Ye brethren lovyng cup" as it was dubbed, is the splendid gift to the ancient corporation of Mr. A. F. Wenger, of Hanley. To many new councillors who had to drink their "yard" last night it was a graceful instrument of torture. Harmless enough it looked as it stood in the centre of the principal table facing the mayor (Mr. A. H. Heath, M.P.), of the ancient corporation. Above its glass pedestal it rises the regulation yard. Its base is mounted with silver bearing the inscription, "Venison Feast, Hanley, 1783"—the date of the



YARD GLASS AND GOBLETS.

PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR WENGER, 1900.



PUNCH BOWL.

PRESENTED BY
ALDERMAN THOMAS TAYLOR, 1901.



first feast, and on the other side are the figures "1900." The graceful tapering column is of cut glass from the top of which curve silver handles, crested with stags' heads, representing the venison given by the Duke of Sutherland. On the silver band strengthening the column are four coats of arms—Hanley, Burslem, Longton and Stoke. The base of what appears to be the cup proper is cased with rolled silver, upon which will be engraved the names of the mayors and recorders of the corporation in the forthcoming century. On the casing appears a band of Staffordshire knots, and the brim of the glass is also heavily mounted with silver. The cavity of the glass tapers to the base, and holds exactly one pint. The design is that of the donor, who has also presented a tankard and half-a-dozen cut glasses as drinking vessels for the aldermen. The original cup, it is worthy of mention, was similar in shape to the one presented to the corporation last night; but it was soon broken. "Wyth ye newe centurie and ye newe glasse they renewe their devotion to ye antiente rites, wyth their goode wysches for ye future welfare of ye antiente corporation and ye common weale." *



* Since the foregoing records were printed a valuable Punch Bowl has been presented by alderman Thomas Taylor—a beautiful example of artistic work, designed and executed on his manufactory, of which we are able to give an illustration.

MAYORS OF THE ANCIENT CORPORATION.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1783. Ephraim Chatterley | 1826. Thomas Cox |
| 1784. Ralph Baddeley | 1827. Benjamin Stubbs |
| 1785. John Mare | 1828. William Malkin |
| 1786. Samuel Hollins | 1829. John Leake |
| 1787. Charles Bagnall | 1830. C. P. Hollinbery |
| 1788. Thomas Twemlow | 1831. John Stonier |
| 1789. Joshua Heath | 1832. T. A. Maguire |
| 1790. John Yates | 1833. W. Bishop |
| 1791. Edward Keeling | 1834. John Taylor |
| 1792. John Baddeley | 1835. G. H. Fourdrinier |
| 1793. James Whitehead | 1836. Ralph Stevenson, jun. |
| 1794. John Twemlow | 1837. Dudley Wood (died during
the year) |
| 1795. Thomas Hollins | 1838. Robert May |
| 1796. William Yates | 1839. John Baker |
| 1797. John Tomlinson | 1840. E. N. Fourdrinier |
| 1798. Edmund John Birch | 1841. Samuel Keeling |
| 1799. Thomas Wright | 1842. Thomas Smith |
| 1800. Edmund John Birch | 1843. Thomas Head |
| 1801. Thomas Byerley | 1844. Thomas Cunningham |
| 1802. Captain S. G. Simpson | 1845. Lawrence Whittaker |
| 1803. John Adams | 1846. Thomas Keeling |
| 1804. William Chatterley | 1847. George Baker |
| 1805. S. Chatterley | 1848. John Stupart |
| 1806. No record | 1849. Theophilus Smith |
| 1807-8-9. Meetings held, but
mention of mayor omitted | 1850. Thomas Griffin, jun. |
| 1810. Ephraim Chatterley | 1851. George Coxon |
| 1811 to 1818 inclusive. Record
lost or omitted | 1852. William Yates |
| 1819. Thomas Griffin | 1853. George Simpson |
| 1820. John Askey | 1854. J. A. Wise |
| 1821. Record missing | 1855. Joseph Clementson |
| 1822. Thomas Griffin | 1856. George Sargeant |
| 1823. Ralph Stephenson | 1857. C. M. Cox |
| 1824. Joseph Locker | 1858. Edwin Allbut |
| 1825. J. D. Bagster (who died
during his year of office) | 1859. A. M. Dix |
| | 1860. James Taylor, jun. |
| | 1861. J. W. Clementson |

MAYORS OF THE ANCIENT CORPORATION.—*Continued.*

1862. W. H. Folker	1882. Samuel Keeling appointed mayor for 1882, died 3rd December, 1881. Had he sur- vived he would have filled the chair for the third time. W. H. Folker presided in his room
1863. Horton Yates	1883. J. West Jones
1864. George Meakin	1884. John Strick
1865. Thomas Adams	1885. Henry Palmer
1866. John Baker	1886. John Lovell Hamshaw
1867. R. E. Narramore	1887. Thomas Taylor
1868. Charles Adams	1888. John Bromley
1869. William Baker	1889. Rev. E. Duncan Boothman
1870. Edmund Tennant	1890. Charles Daniel
1871. John Burn	1891. Rev. S. Hubert Owen
1872. Charles J. Homer	1892. Thomas Bickley
1873. Thomas W. Dodds	1893. William Tunncliffe
1874. Charles Edward Challinor	1894. George Leason
1875. William Stubbs	1895. John Clare
1876. John Sugden Crapper	1896. James Taylor Howson
1877. Samuel Keeling (second time)	1897. William Dunnett Spanton
1878. John Warner	1898. William Woodall, M.P.
1879. Samuel Cole	1899. Wm. J. J. W. Heath
1880. Theophilus Smith (second time)	1900. Arthur H. Heath, M.P.
In 1881, Alderman W. H. Folker presided in consequence of the death of James Moore, who was appointed mayor at the festival of 1880.	

RECORDERS.

1783. William Smallwood	1826. John Dent
1798. E. Mayer	1830. Thomas Griffin
1810. John Baker	1852. Ralph Stevenson*
1819. John Dent	1877. John Lovell Hamshaw*
1825. J. Amphlett	1899. William Dunnett Spanton

* Officiated as Deputy-Recorder a few years prior to formal appointment to the office.



THE
Municipal Corporation of Hanley.

THE preceding pages having been devoted to an account of the origin, labours, and social enjoyments of the ancient corporation, it is now proposed to go beyond the four corners of the ancient record, and furnish a history of another institution, which the great development of trade and the increase of population have rendered necessary, in order to promote and secure the well-being of the Hanley community—namely, the Municipal Corporation. No one can deny that the members of the ancient corporation have rendered invaluable aid in advancing the public weal, but the wayward and refractory disposition of men beyond their benign influence has led to disorder on more than one occasion—notably, in 1808 and 1809, when the peaceable inhabitants of Hanley were frequently terrified by a gang, who carried on a system of nocturnal outrage, which obtained for them the name of the “Rough Fleet,” and in 1842, when rioting took place, not only at Hanley, but in the neighbouring places.

In 1824, the inhabitants of the township of Hanley and Shelton determined to apply to Parliament for an Act to establish a more efficient police, and on the 20th of May, 1825, an Act was passed “for watching and lighting the townships

or vills of Hanley and Shelton." The Act appointed commissioners and empowered them to appoint a chief bailiff (who was to be "sworn as a constable") and watchmen for the preservation of peace, power being given for lighting and rating. The Act was amended in 1828, and the rating powers (which were limited) were more clearly defined. The chief bailiff's duties consisted mainly of convening and presiding over meetings, and he was quite destitute of powers, even if he had the inclination, to organise a police force. Over the chief bailiff and the commissioners the public had no control. In 1791 a lease was made by the Lord of the Manor of Hanley to eleven of the principal inhabitants of some ground for a public market. In 1813 an Act of Parliament was passed for establishing and regulating the market. By that Act the trustees were authorised to elect each other; that is to say, when a vacancy arose the trustees elected another person. They were in fact altogether free from public control. It was their duty to apply their surplus income, after paying all debts and expenses, to public purposes and for the public benefit of the townships of Hanley and Shelton. Other bodies having some power were the Boards appointed under the Highways Act—one Board for Hanley and one for Shelton. It was dissatisfaction with the latter which stimulated the desire for a better system of local government.

Self-elected and divided authority continued long after complaints began to be made. In 1853 the people of Hanley and Shelton, wishing for some reform in their local government, made an effort with a view to having the Health of Towns Bill introduced. The General Board of Health sent down Mr. Rawlinson to make inquiries as to the wishes of the inhabitants. He recommended a high qualification for

membership, in consequence of which the application of the Act was successfully resisted, and matters remained in Hanley and Shelton as heretofore.

In 1854, Mr. John Dimmock—at that time chief bailiff—drew up a statement as to the position of the local government, in which he said: “These townships (Hanley and Shelton) form the centre of the Staffordshire Potteries, and contain 30,000 souls. The local affairs are managed by different bodies, partly under special and partly under general Acts, without any head or co-operation. The consequence is that no department gives satisfaction. The highways are in a miserable state, and the sewerage so defective as to interfere with the comfort and health of the inhabitants.” Subsequently, Mr. Dimmock said “They (Hanley and Shelton) abound in public buildings, streets, manufactories, ironworks, and collieries, and possess many local advantages; but, for want of a suitable municipal government and system of sewerage, are subject to great inconvenience,”

On the 6th of November, 1855, several persons met to confer as to the best means of substituting some one thoroughly effective form of government for the various detached and insufficient existing modes. Subsequently, numerous other persons of various classes became allied with them, and they unitedly appointed a committee to collect suitable information, to digest it and lay it before a public meeting for the consideration of the two townships.

Soon afterwards, a desire for a charter of incorporation became general in both townships. In February, 1856, a public meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. E. Allbut, the then chief bailiff, and the committee previously appointed

to consider the matter presented a report enumerating the advantages of incorporation, one paragraph of which we extract from the report :—"Instead of the present system of government (if it can be so-called) in these townships where so many different and sometimes rival and conflicting public interests exist without any supreme head—for much of the authority exercised by the chief bailiff is ceded to him by courtesy rather than possessed of right—a charter of incorporation substitutes a single efficient system of local self-government, founded on a constitutional basis, whose members will be periodically elected by the suffrages of the inhabitants. The powers held by the market trustees and by the commissioners under the Lighting Act will become vested at once by their voluntary surrender, or subsequently by the adoption of other means, in the Town Council, by whom the revenues received under those Acts will be disbursed and publicly accounted for." It was resolved that a petition in favour of incorporation should be prepared and signed by those who approved of it.

The petition, before being forwarded to Her Majesty's Privy Council, contained the names of 2,242 ratepayers, representing a ratable value of £23,000, out of a total of 5,492 ratepayers representing a ratable value of £56,200. But there was £15,000 not "representable in the ratable value, so that the petition did in reality represent more than one half the ratable value." These facts were stated to Major Warburton, the commissioner sent down to make an inquiry, which commenced October 29th, 1856, and lasted eight days, and it was further stated that a much larger number of signatures might have been obtained if it had been deemed requisite. At the inquiry the opposition to the principle of incorporation was limited to a very small number ; but there was opposition on

the part of certain landed and other property owners (including the North Staffordshire Railway Company and others having land and buildings in the Glebe district of the Shelton township), who desired to be excluded from the borough. There was also a joint petition from the Local Boards of Burslem and Tunstall, the concluding paragraph of which was in the following words: "Your memorialists would be glad to see an improved and consolidated form of local government for the townships of Hanley and Shelton; but they trust that no powers may be granted which will injuriously affect the interests of the towns they represent, interfere with the operations of the Stipendiary Justice Act, or prevent that uniform system of police for the entire Pottery district under one supervision and control, which is so essential to its discipline and efficiency." The greatest contention was as to the qualification of members of the proposed new Corporation, some desiring a £30 rental or a £1,000 property qualification, while others struggled to reduce it to £15 or £500. The prayer of the petition for incorporating the two townships as the borough of Hanley was granted, and the lower qualification was inserted in the charter.

The charter was received in Hanley on the 25th May, 1857, but as a portion of the township of Shelton, called the Glebe, was not omitted as was intended, it was amended by special Act of Parliament, which by the 3rd of July had passed both Houses, and the Glebe lands were excluded.

One of the principles inculcated by the ancient corporation is that "honour should be paid to whom honour is due," and for this reason we give a list of worthy men who served the office of chief bailiff of Hanley, until that office was superseded.

1825. John Yates	1842. Edward N. Fourdrinier
1826. Thomas Cox	1843. John Ridgway Bale
1827. John Ridgway	1844. William Brownfield
1828. Thomas Taylor	1845. Timothy Dimmock
1829. Charles Meigh	1846. Samuel Keeling
1830. William Ridgway	1847. Frederick Bishop
1831. Samuel Wright	1848. John Gerrard
1832. John Boulton	1849. }
1833. William Parker	1850. } Joseph Clementson
1834. Leonard James Abington	1851. }
1835. John Askey	1852. Dr. Haslam
1836. William Dutton	1853. }
1837. Robert May	1854. } John Dimmock
1838. William Wear	1855. }
1839. William Yates	1856. } Edwin Allbut
1840. Thomas Fenton	1857. }
1841. Edward John Ridgway	

The first election of Councillors took place on the 20th of August, 1857. Very little excitement was manifested in the matter until the evening preceding the election, when the several parties who represented the opinion of the burgesses, commenced an active movement in favour of their respective candidates. One party claimed the support of the burgesses in favour of the men chosen and nominated at ward meetings; another party denounced these ward meetings as underhand attempts to prevent the burgesses exercising their independent rights of voting for men of their own choice. This was the main point of difference between the parties. Nine were required for the North Ward, nine for the East Ward, and six for the South Ward. The following were the successful candidates:—North Ward: Francis Wedgwood, 336 votes; Richard Clarke, 325; Samuel Cole, 247; Charles Jones, 237; Alexander Mills Dix, 220; William Brownfield, 192; Jesse Shirley, 182; William Henry Yates, 174; George Ridgway,

163. East Ward: Thomas Gilman, 447; Edward John Ridgway, 441; Edward Bowen, 439; James William Pankhurst, 427; Benjamin Boothroyd, 419; Charles Lockett, 399; William Palmer, 395; John Shirley, 389; Thomas Simpson, 343. South Ward: John Ridgway, 239; Timothy Dimmock, 231; John Dimmock, 230; Thomas Pidduck, 213; Arthur Peters, 208; and Joseph Stephenson, 199.

The first meeting of the newly-elected councillors was held on the 24th of August. At the next meeting, August 29th, the following were elected aldermen:—North Ward: F. Wedgwood and W. Brownfield; East Ward: E. J. Ridgway and B. Boothroyd; South Ward: Timothy Dimmock and John Dimmock. Mr. John Ridgway was appointed the first mayor, and Mr. Edward Challinor town clerk. On the 1st of September the following were elected to fill the places of those who were appointed aldermen:—North Ward: John Morris, 172 votes; Thomas Hill, 153. East Ward: Henry Pidduck, 281; George Sargeant, 267. South Ward: Thomas Worthington, 262; William Huston, 226. The Corporation then had its full complement of thirty members. Of that number Alderman George Ridgway was the only one still on the Council in 1900.

Following the municipal charter, in 1859, a commission of the peace for the borough was granted. The magistrates for the borough in 1882 were the Mayor and the ex-Mayor; Messrs. Francis Wedgwood, Edward John Ridgway, John Hope, Taylor Ashworth, James Meakin, James W. Pankhurst, Benjamin Boothroyd, Frederick Wragge, George Ridgway, Edwin Powell, Thomas Pidduck, Charles Adams, Thomas John Keeling, Oliver Lodge, Henry Cartledge, Robert E. Narramore, John Sugden Crapper, Edward John Baxter, George P. Bradford, James Charlesworth, Samuel Cole,

Thomas Hampton, Henry Palmer, John Warner, Samuel Wood and John Bromley. Clerk to the borough magistrates, Mr. John Lovell Hamshaw, the recorder of the ancient corporation.

In 1870 a borough police force was established, which now consists of a Chief Constable, three inspectors, six sergeants, and forty-nine constables.

In 1880 a court of quarter sessions for the borough was granted, and the first court was held on the 26th of January, 1881. The Recorder was Mr. John Beavis Brindley, of the Oxford Circuit. Mr. Arthur Challinor, members of whose family have belonged to the ancient corporation, is the Clerk of the Peace.

We can take comfort from the knowledge that in the last hundred years Hanley has not grown worse, but has been and is improving; and notwithstanding the necessity of appointing nuisance inspectors, the condition of the people is better than it was in those "good old times" when the Market Square was an open waste, and railways and tramcars were unknown. The change for the better began, as we have previously indicated, in the early days of the ancient corporation; but progress has, perhaps, been greater since the time when the old town commissioners, and subsequently the Municipal Corporation (whose members have been recruited from time to time from the enlightened and experienced members of the ancient body) undertook the "watching, paving, and lighting" of the town.

When Ephraim Chatterley and his companions sat down to the inaugural venison feast, the works of Josiah Wedgwood at Etruria had been opened some fourteen years. The potting trade of the town was on a very small scale, at that time, but in 1880 there were fifty-four firms of china and

earthenware manufacturers in the borough, employing at least ten thousand persons, while more than half as many were engaged in the ironworks and the mines in the place, in addition to which paper making, brush making, glass making, the manufacture of artificial teeth, and other industries were in active operation. The central position of Hanley, as well as the enterprise of its inhabitants, has been beneficial to the town. The advantage of this position was recognised in 1817, for on the 12th day of December, in that year, a very numerous meeting of the inhabitants of the different pottery towns was held at Hanley, Sir John Edensor Heathcote, Knight, presiding, and it was resolved "That in future all public meetings convened by and in the joint names of the majority of the head constables, for the time being, of Burslem, Hanley and Shelton, Stoke, Fenton, and Lane End, should be understood and considered as regularly convened," and that all such public meetings so convened from time to time, "be held at Hanley, as the most central place of meeting for the Potteries at large." Public meetings are no longer convened by chief constables, but we know that the principal meetings of the Potteries are held at Hanley, whether they relate to trade and commerce, politics, music, or other subjects. The meetings of the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, established in 1831, and re-organised in 1874, and of the North Staffordshire Coal and Ironmasters' Association, established in 1854, are held at Hanley. Further, the renown of the ceramic products of the whole of the Pottery districts, the quality of its iron, and the output of coal, having made North Staffordshire one of the most important industrial centres in the kingdom, it became desirable that there should be some common ground where the representatives of all the various industries should be able to

assemble. Hence in the month of January, 1875, the North Staffordshire Exchange was opened at Hanley. The meetings of the Earthenware Manufacturers' Association and of the Potteries Board of Arbitration, till its recent dissolution, were held at Hanley.

At the time of the first venison feast there was but one place of worship—St. John's Church—in the town. The first Nonconformist Chapel (the Tabernacle) was opened in 1784. Now there are in the borough in all forty-nine places of worship. (*See p. 6.*) A building designed for the purposes of serving as a mission room, a temperance hall, and nursing for the sick poor, was erected in 1874, at the expense of Mr. T. Worthington, a successful manufacturer of Hanley. Church and dissent often met in this little home of charity in Jasper Street, from which two trained nurses were regularly sent to visit the sick poor of the neighbourhood, without distinction of religious sect or denomination. It should be placed on the records of the ancient corporation that another institution has been opened in Hanley, a home to which domestic servants and other girls can go temporarily when they require advice and assistance.

In Hanley, as well as in other busy towns, the majority of the children sent to elementary schools finish their education at an early age. The code hitherto in operation had laid down such stringent regulations as to almost prohibit night schools. Evening instruction of a more advanced kind is given at the School of Art, and the science classes of the Mechanics' Institution, now under the management of the Hanley Town Council, and such instruction is absolutely essential to the maintenance of the prosperity of Hanley and the district. A Free Public Library and Reading Room was established, the Mechanics' Institution affording room for both.

Reverting once more to the date of the first venison feast of the ancient corporation, we find that about that time small portions of the greens or wastes of Hanley were granted out on lease, for long terms, at small rents, to encourage the spirit of industry then displayed. These leaseholds were in after years converted into freeholds by the lessees becoming purchasers of the reversionary estates. Much of this description of property exists in the Market Place and streets leading therefrom. In 1791 the Lord of the Manor granted a lease to eleven principal inhabitants of Hanley and Shelton of a plot of land, part of Hanley Lower Green, on which they and others had then recently erected a building for the purposes of a Town Hall. In the session of 1813 the trustees obtained from Parliament "An Act for establishing and regulating the market, and for enlarging and improving the Market Place at Hanley." Under this Act the trustees built suitable market premises, which in later years have passed to the Municipal Corporation. The Town Hall in Fountain Square was opened on the 31st July, 1845. It is centrally situated, standing on the site of the old butter market. The structure is principally of stone, and the front has been designed after the Ionic order. The hall served a useful purpose in its early days, and is now used as offices. The Mechanics' Institution was started in 1826 by private subscriptions, for the mental improvement of its members, its first home being in Frederick Street. It was to the second mayor of the municipal borough that the inhabitants of Hanley were indebted for the present fine building in Pall Mall, for although Mr. William Brownfield did not erect it at his own cost, he signalised his year of office by offering £500 towards the new building, which was opened in 1861. The large Covered Market, which is 126 feet by 120 feet, and is for the convenience of selling general merchandise,

was opened on the 20th of December, 1845. There are also the spacious Shambles in Tontine Street, and Fish and Potato Markets in Swan Passage. These markets are under the direction and control of the Corporation, which, in 1869, during the mayoralty of Mr. George Ridgway, opened a Smithfield having an area of eight thousand square yards. By this means they established the best weekly fat cattle market in North Staffordshire.

One of the earliest public works of importance accomplished by the Municipal Corporation was the provision of a Cemetery, which the great increase of the population of the town rendered necessary. As early as April, 1858, the Corporation decided upon the purchase of twenty acres of the Shelton Hall estate. The cemetery was opened on the 30th of April, 1860, on which day one portion was consecrated by Bishop Lonsdale, the other portion having been previously dedicated to the public by resolution of the Town Council. In 1874 seven acres of additional ground were purchased by the Town Council for the enlargement of the cemetery when requisite. It was consecrated by Bishop Hobhouse in 1876, and since that time further land has been secured.

The ratepayers in public meeting, in July, 1871, affirmed the necessity of having public baths, and the cost of the same was included in the next rate. The building was commenced during the mayoralty of Alderman Edwin Powell in 1872, and was opened in 1874 by the then mayor, Alderman Henry Cartledge, a councillor of the ancient corporation. The building itself is a very effective one of Gothic design. It includes Turkish, vapour, private, and swimming baths, all of which have been patronised beyond expectation, which is a testimony no less to the good sense of the Corporation in

providing them than to the public who use them. In 1875 the Corporation opened a public playground. It is a field of four acres, at the rear of St. John's Church, leased on easy terms by the late Mr. James Meakin, who contributed £250 towards the expense of preparing the land and providing gymnastic appliances.

The People's Music Hall in Glass Street, was opened in July, 1873. It was a noble building as to size, and was well proportioned. In 1878 the building was altered and opened as a circus, and became the Imperial Circus. It was used as a music hall for the concerts of the Hanley and Shelton Philharmonic Society and other parties, and also available for all purposes when requisite to provide for the assembling of upwards of 4,000 persons in one building in North Staffordshire. The Theatre and Opera House, in Brunswick Street, was opened on the 29th of April, 1871, having been built on the site of a dingy and inconvenient old theatre. It will accommodate 2,500 persons, and, on an emergency, 3,000 may be accommodated within its walls. The Queen's Hotel was one of the finest buildings in Hanley. It was opened on the 31st of December, 1869. The company who built it was originated by a number of gentlemen who regarded the hotel accommodation insufficient for the size, importance, and requirements of the borough. The cost of the building (unfurnished) was about £20,000. On the 27th of February, 1878, the hotel (furnished) was sold by public auction for £16,050 to councillor Thomas J. Keeling, of the ancient corporation. In 1882 the hotel was offered for sale by auction, and the highest bid for it was £7,000. It was subsequently purchased by the Corporation of Hanley for a Town Hall, and in 1887 the Victoria Hall was built as a jubilee memorial, a fine

organ being presented by Mr. George Meakin. The friends of temperance have had a society established in Hanley for many years. In the year 1870 a Temperance Hall for entertainment and meeting was erected in New Street, and now the old Tabernacle, in High Street, is the Temperance Hall. The Rev. Thomas de Vine, then the president of the Temperance Society, was a councillor of the ancient corporation.

There are two political institutions which must be noticed. If we mention the Conservative Club first, it is only because it was established before that of the Liberals. The Hanley Conservative Club-house occupied a conspicuous position opposite Trinity Church. The foundation stone was laid on the 26th of June, 1877, and the building was opened on the 25th of February, 1878, previous to which date the Conservatives had a reading room in Albion Street. The new club-house had assembly room, billiard room, committee rooms, and every accommodation for club purposes. It has recently passed into other hands. The Hanley Liberal Club, which was opened in November, 1878, was the result of a long-cherished feeling on the part of the Liberals of all classes that a place of resort and social intercourse for the party should be established in the borough. The club was held at a house at the junction of Pall Mall and Albion Street, since sold.

In 1879 the Hanley Charity Organisation Society was established, its object being to do battle against mendicity, and direct benevolent gifts into the proper channel. Gentlemen of position and influence, and with some experience in the administration of relief, give their money and their time to ensure a wise and efficient distribution of public charity. The late recorder of the ancient corporation (Mr. J. L. Hamshaw) was one of the guiding spirits of this useful institution.

For the convenience of men of business, there are in the town no less than four banks or branches—the National Provincial Bank of England, the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, Lloyds, and the Birmingham and Midland Counties Bank. The National Provincial furnished a mayor of the ancient corporation in the year 1844 in the person of Thomas Cunningham, at that time manager of the bank. Mr. Cunningham was for a long period a member, and each of his successors in the management of the same bank has availed himself of the privileges of association with the ancient corporation. The Central Savings Bank for the Potteries was at Hanley, which is also the head quarters of the North Staffordshire Provident Association, one of the best and most substantial friendly societies in the country, and the Catholic Brotherly Society, a friendly society in a double sense, and which is annually the source of a large social gathering. We have likewise in the town numerous other friendly societies and building societies for the encouragement and assistance of the thrifty, most, if not all, of which were unknown a hundred years ago.

Under the Redistribution of Seats Act, 1885, Hanley with Burslem and Sneyd Green was formed into a Parliamentary Borough, with one member. Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., represented the Borough from 1885 to 1900, when Mr. A. Howard Heath, M.P., was elected.

On the occasion of the Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in 1887, Hanley did its duty. Funds were supplied for the due celebration of the event by providing 1,300 children with medals, a grant to the School of Art, and other objects. At the Diamond Jubilee when Her late Majesty completed 60 years of her reign on June 20th, 1897, the celebration

was most enthusiastic, and funds were subscribed liberally to be devoted to the Hanley Nursing Society, the provision of a Drill Hall for the Hanley Rifle Volunteers, and the School of Art.

The latter was taken over by the Municipal Council in 1900, in accordance with the tendency of modern legislation to municipalise everything, good, bad and indifferent.

Military patriotism has not been forgotten. Nearly 100 years ago (see page 10) a regiment of Staffordshire Infantry Volunteers was raised in the Potteries, and a prominent councillor of this ancient corporation, Lieut.-Colonel Whitehead, was in command of the Hanley and Shelton six companies, with about 500 men. In 1859 the Staffordshire Artillery Volunteer force was formed, and this is still in a flourishing condition, numbering about 19 officers and 400 men, now under the command of Colonel Strick, C.B., an old member of the ancient corporation. The Hanley companies of the North Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers now number 7 officers and 283 men, and they have had the honour of sending out to South Africa a company which has recently returned from active service, full of honour.

Other references to public matters in the Borough, for which we have not space, will be found in the annual records of the ancient corporation, and in the pages of the *Staffordshire Advertiser* and *Staffordshire Sentinel* which take note of everything deserving of permanent record.



Now my task is done. The revival of the memories of Old Hanley, its customs and its traditions as elucidated by the records of the ancient corporation will, I hope, interest many, and tend to keep alive that spirit of patriotism which has been for a hundred and twenty years the mainspring of its existence.

The loyalty of its members has never been more zealous than it is now under the reign of King Edward VII.

Long may the King reign !

Long may the ancient corporation flourish.





LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

His Grace the Duke of Sutherland ...	Trentham.
Adams, Charles, J.P.... ..	Hanley.
Ashworth, Taylor, J.P.	„
Ashwell, John B.	Stoke.
Alcock, Reginald	Hanley.
Alcock, S. King, M.D.	Burslem.
Boothman, Rev. E. Duncan	Hanley.
Bullock, Thomas, J.P.	Congleton.
Boyce, Albert E.	Hartshill.
Barber, Frederick	Hanley.
Bennion, George	Longton.
Bickley, Thomas, J.P.	Hanley.
Bamford, Thomas	Uttoxeter.
Bishop, W. H.	Hanley.
Baker, Charles G.	Dunwood, Endon.
Boddington, H.	Newcastle.
Baines, Arthur	Hanley.
Barlow, George... ..	„
Bishop, Herbert E.	Stoke.
Clare, John	Hanley.
Cox, Arthur E.... ..	„
Cliff, Joseph	„
Cowell, Cedric A.	„
Chew, Alfred	„
Collings, J. H.... ..	„
Clarke, R. E.	Newark.
Cox, P. Mottram	Hanley.
Challinor, Edward S.	„
Challinor, Arthur	„
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